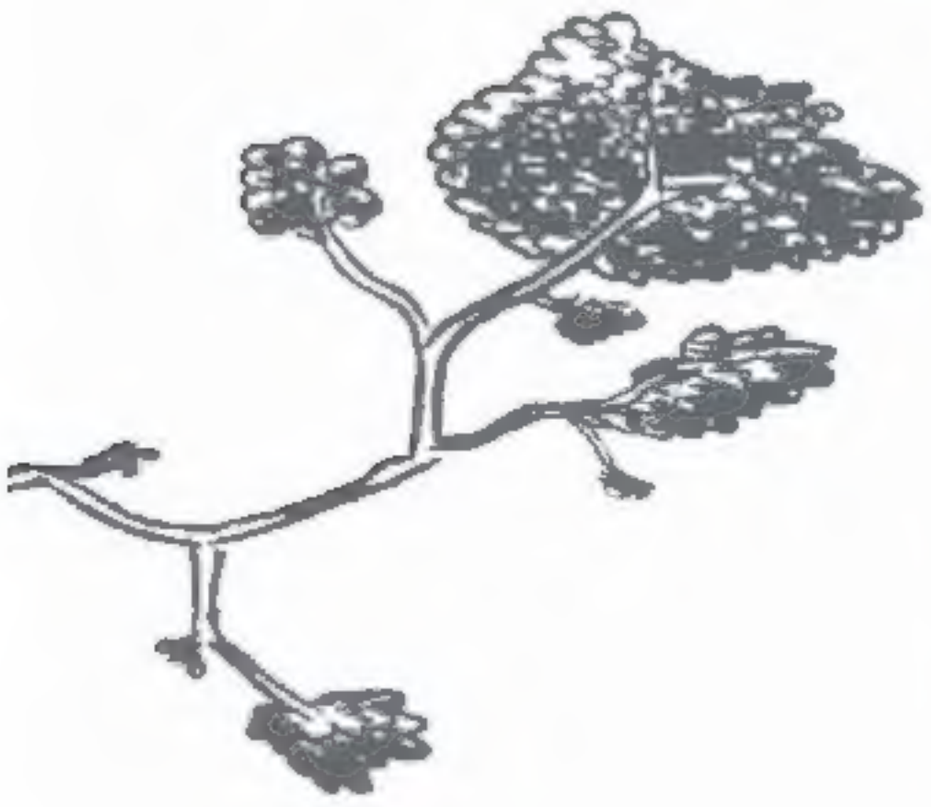
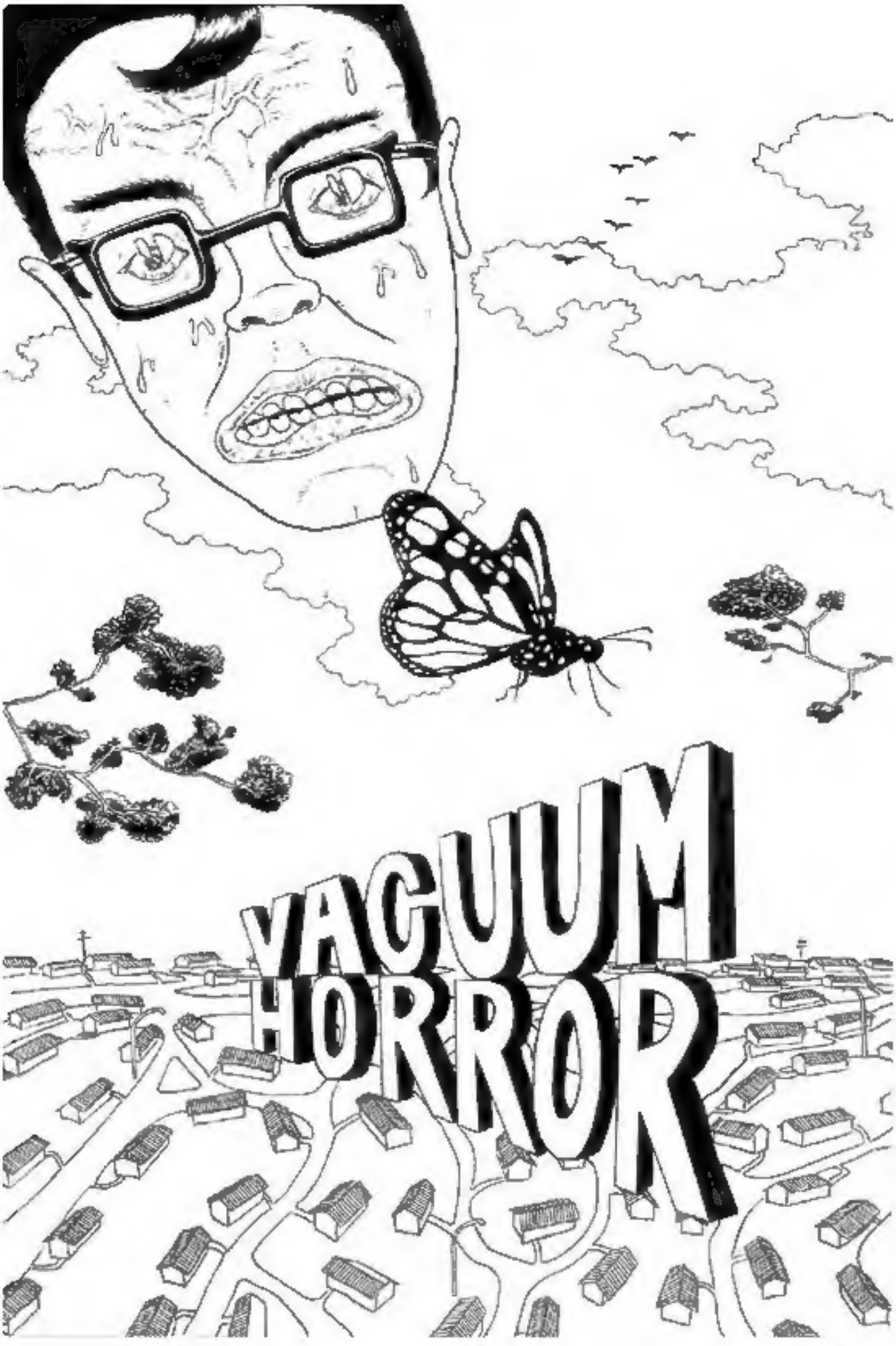
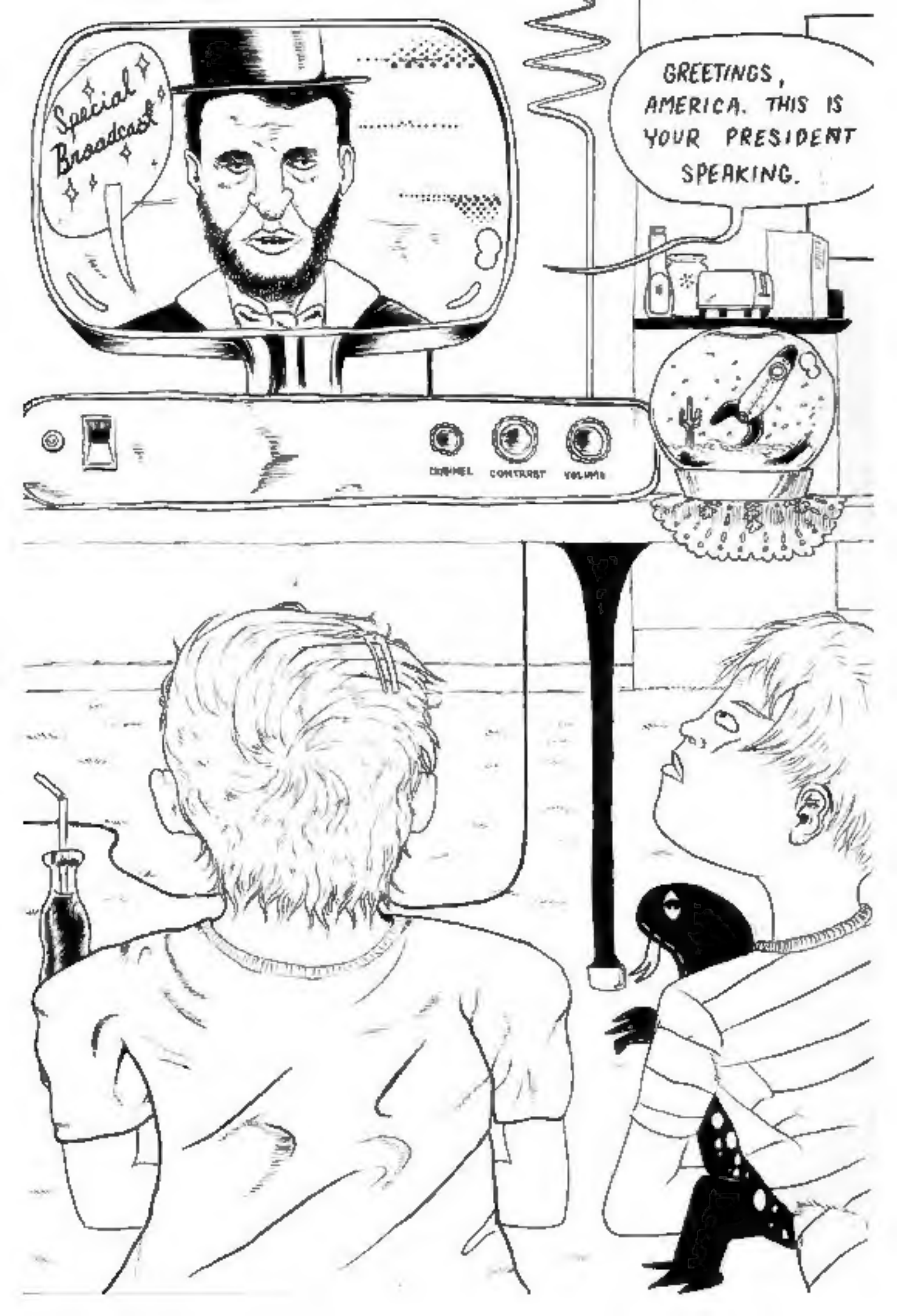
VACUUM HORROR

IT WAS 2004 AND USA BEGAN ITS ICY DESCENT INTO A "BATH OF PIXELATION". THE PLACE WAS CHICAGO, A VAST INDUSTRIAL LABYRINTH. I HAD ARRIVED THERE BY CHANCE, SLEEPING ON A PUNK MUSICIAN'S COUCH.
BANDS PLAYED OUT THE LAST RESIDUAL ECHOES OF 60'S DAY-GLO, EMITTING PROGRESSIVELY DIMMER SPARKS OF IRONY AND LAUGHTER, FADING INTO OBSCURITY. SHUFFLING BOOKS TO AND FRO IN A LIBRARY, I CREATED A MONASTIC EXISTENCE... MULLING OVER FORENSICS TEXTBOOKS, WOODCUT STAMPED BIBLES, AND BIOLOGICAL DIAGRAMS, ARGUING LATE INTO THE NIGHT IN BARS WITH FELLOW ARTISTS, DRUNKEN, SPIRALING DESIGNS THAT LED US AWAY FROM EACH OTHER IN ANGER, OR INTO EACH OTHERS' BEDROOMS, FOR A BLUE MEANINGLESS RESOLVE. MY FASCINATION CONVERGED ON A PARTICULAR DISCONTINUED MODEL OF HOOVER VACUUM CLEANER FROM THE 60'S: *THE CONSTELLATION FOUR FORTY FOUR.*
FROM ITS PLACE IN A YELLOWED NEWSPAPER CUTTING IT HUNG IN MY MIND, A BLACK INSTANT. THERE, IN A CLOSET, WHERE MY DOWN JACKET HUNG, ANOTHER SHINING WORLD EMERGED, FLASHED INCANDESCENT, AND WAS DESTROYED IN A MATTER OF MONTHS.



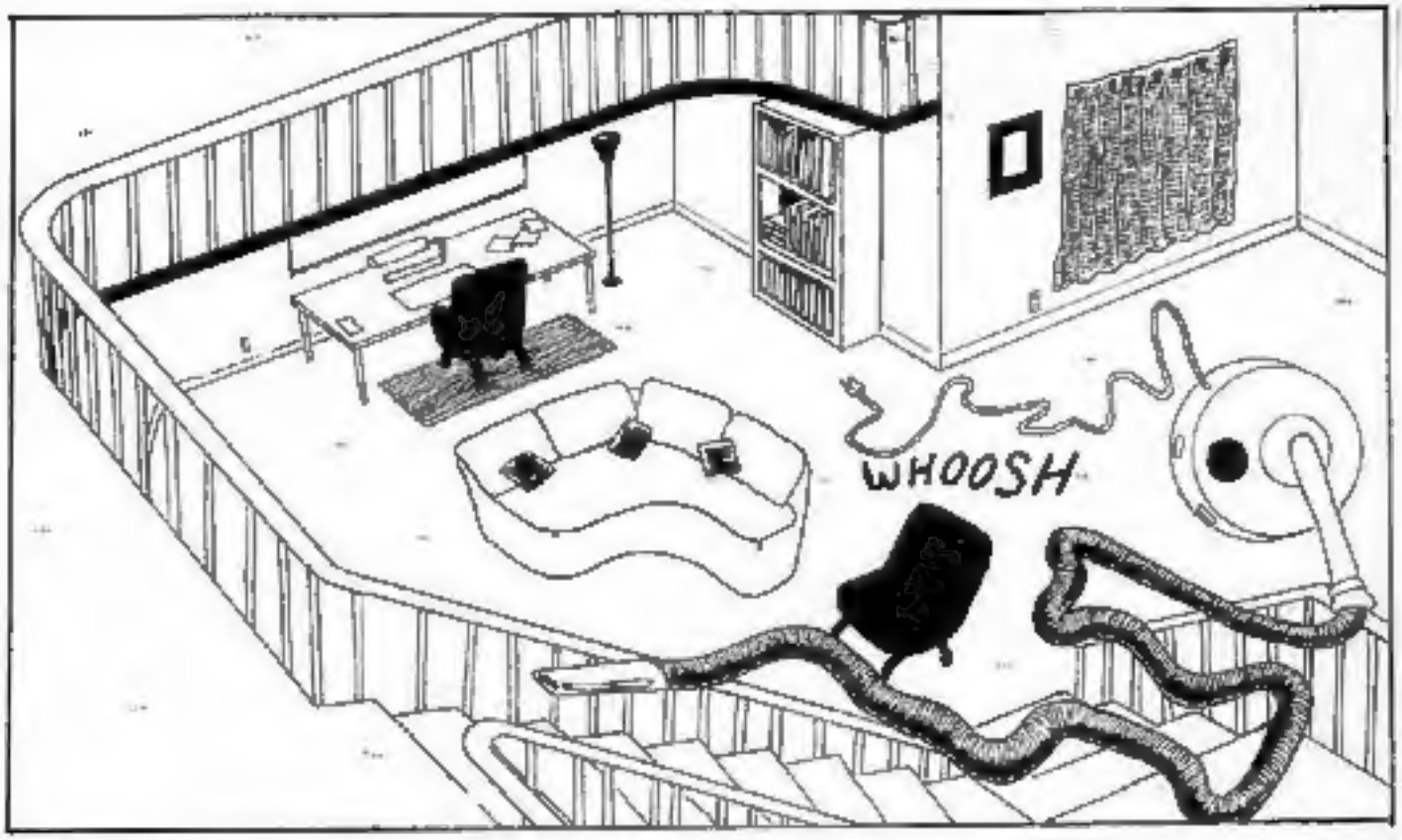
NO ANO DE 2004, OS EUA INICIARAM O SEU DECLÍNIO GELADO NUM "BANHO DE PIXELIZAÇÃO". A COISA COMEÇOU EM CHICAGO, UM VASTO LABIRINTO INDUSTRIAL. EU HAVIA CHEGADO LÁ POR MERO ACASO, DORMITANDO NO SOFÁ DE UM MÚSICO PUNK.
OS GRUPOS DE ROCK ESGOTARAM OS ÚLTIMOS ECOS RESIDUAIS DOS PSICADÉLICOS ANOS 60, EMITINDO PROGRESSIVAMENTE FAÍSCAS OBSCURAS DE IRONIA E RISOS, SUMINDO-SE NA ESCURIDÃO. NUMA BIBLIOTECA, REMEXI E MISTUREI OS LIVROS DE QUALQUER MANEIRA E FEITIO E, ASSIM, CRIEI UMA EXISTÊNCIA MONÁSTICA... REMOENDO ENTRE LIVROS DE TEOR FORENSE, BÍBLIAS COM XILOGRAVURAS E DIAGRAMAS BIOLÓGICOS; DISCUTINDO IDEIAS ATÉ ÀS TANTAS DA NOITE EM BARES, COM OS AMIGOS, TODOS BÊBADOS, FAZENDO PROJECTOS QUE NOS LEVARAM À SEPARAÇÃO, MUITAS VEZES EM FÚRIA, OU QUE NOS ARRASTARAM PARA OS QUARTOS UNS DOS OUTROS DE ENCONTRO A UMA SOLUÇÃO SEM SENTIDO E TRISTONHA. O MEU FASCÍNIO CONVERGIU PARA UM DETERMINADO E DESCONTINUO MODELO DE ASPIRADOR HOOVER DOS ANOS 60 – *O CONSTELAÇÃO 444*.
NUM RECORTE DE JORNAL AMARELECIDO PELO TEMPO, O OBJECTO APARECIA PENDURADO NA MINHA MENTE – UM INSTANTE NEGRO. ALI, NO ARMÁRIO, ONDE PENDIA A MINHA JAQUETA, OUTRO MUNDO BRILHANTE EMERGIA, INCANDESCENTE. FOI DESTRUÍDO NUMA QUESTÃO DE MESES.


VACUUM
HORROR


Special Broadcast
GREETINGS, AMERICA. THIS IS YOUR PRESIDENT SPEAKING.
CONTRAST

TOMORROW, AND FOR TOMORROW ONLY, ALL CRIMES WILL BE LEGAL.
CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO STAY INDOORS AND ARM THEMSELVES!
OH MY...
ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY, DAD?
....
DAD?

THIS INCLUDES ARSON, VANDALISM, THE USE OF NARCOTICS, VIOLENT ACTS OF ANY DEGREE, THEFT--
—AND RAPE.
DON'T WORRY, DEAR.
I'VE GOT A PISTOL IN MY SOCK DRAWER...
FROM MY DAYS IN THE ARMY.
YOU SHOULD ALL GET SOME SLEEP.
THE LAW IS IN MY HANDS NOW!
CLICK


WHOOSH

BARRY, THERE'S NOTHING IMMORAL ABOUT IT!
YOU'RE INSANE!
I AM NOT. LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION:

....
DO YOU JERK OFF?

JIM, WHAT THE HELL HAS THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

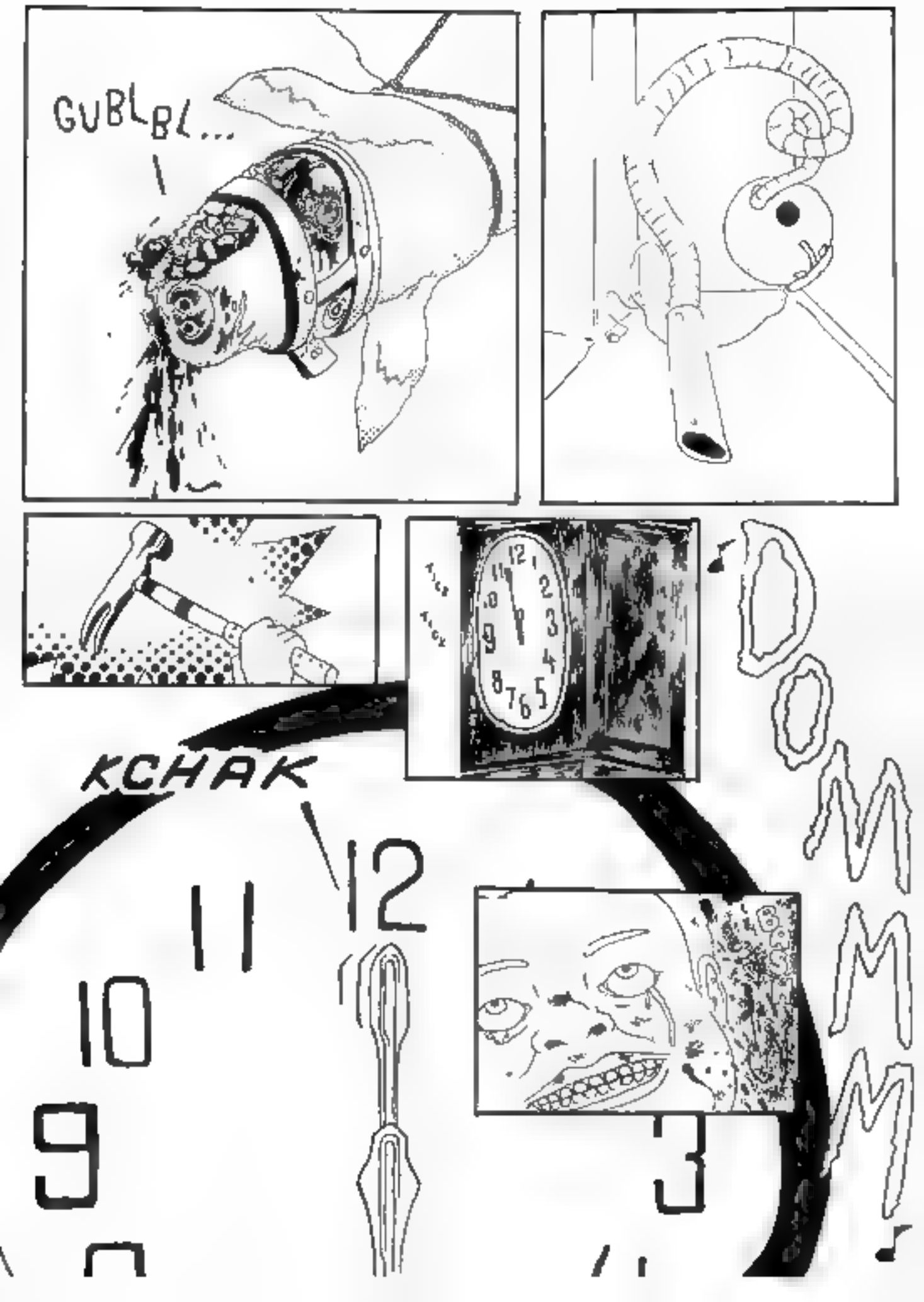
JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION!
WELL, YEAH! I MEAN WHO DOESN'T!
ABSYNTHE

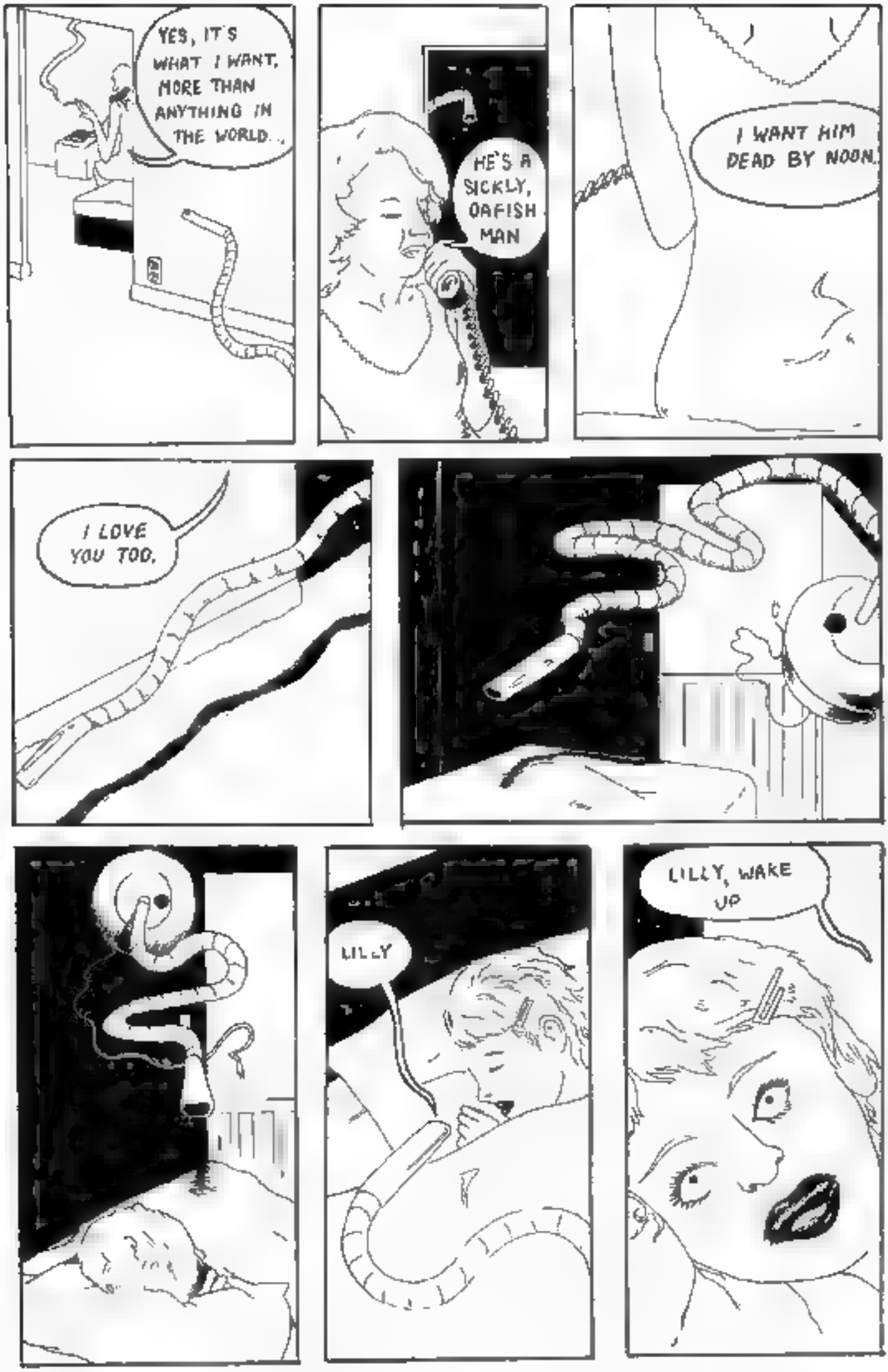
RIGHT... AND DO YOU ENJOY FUCKING YOUR WIFE?

...I DO, BUT I STILL DON'T SEE HOW--
SCIENTISTS SAY OUR CHILDREN ARE GENETICALLY HALF YOU, HALF YOUR SPOUSE.

SEX WITH OUR DAUGHTERS IS SCIENTIFICALLY ACCEPTABLE!
GASP
SAY, YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE!
OF COURSE I DO. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE ABSYNTHE?
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?
CALL ALL THE MEN FROM THE OFFICE.
TELL THEM THEY CAN FUCK OUR DAUGHTERS IF THEY GIVE US THEIRS.
TELL THEM THAT TOMORROW, OUR LIVES MEAN SOMETHING.
TELL THEM WE'RE STARTING A GANG.

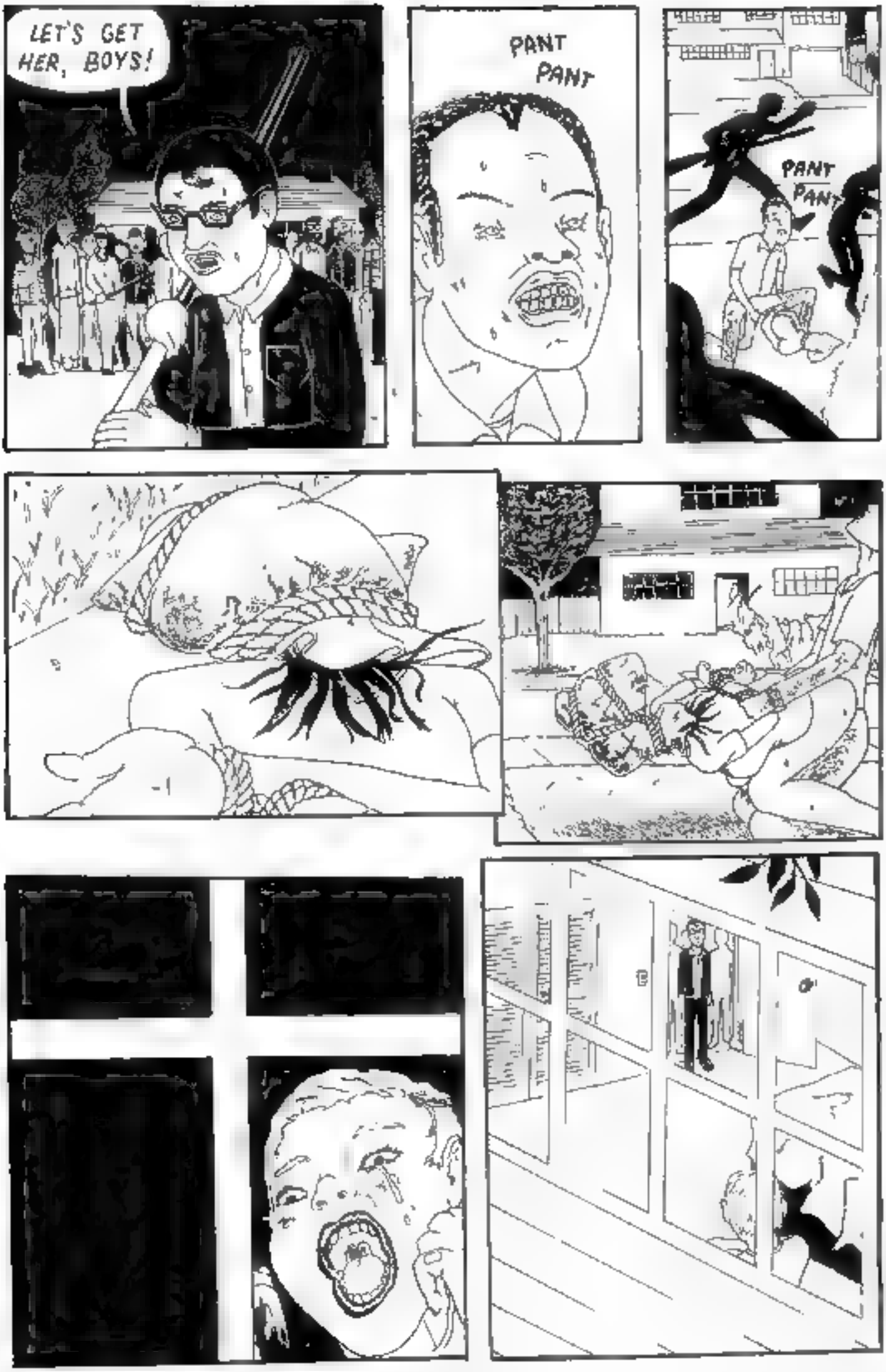
TOK
?
TOK
!!
TOK


GUBL BL...
TICK TOCK
KCHAK
DOOM


YES, IT'S WHAT I WANT, MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD..
HE'S A SICKLY, OAFISH MAN
I WANT HIM DEAD BY NOON.
I LOVE YOU TOO.
LILLY
LILLY, WAKE UP

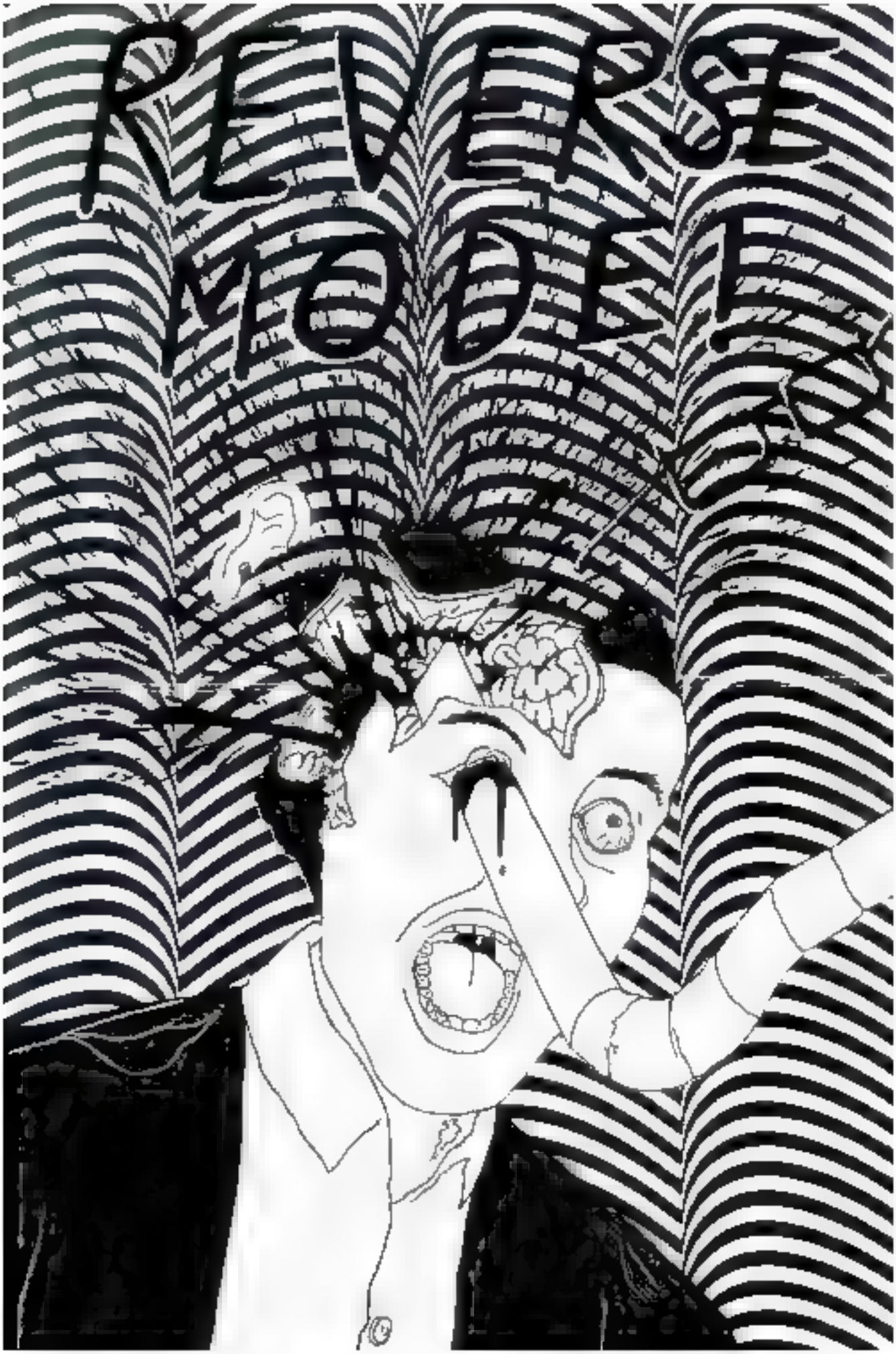
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU?
FIRST, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DON'T SCREAM.
YOU'RE IN SERIOUS DANGER.
PRES DENT ABE LINCOLN HAS SET IN MOTION THE END OF THE WORLD.
WSST
THUNK
I AM FROM A RACE OF MACHINES. THIS IS MY PLANET
IN ONE DAY, EARTH WILL BE NO MORE.
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, I CAN TAKE YOU THERE.

LILLY!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE YOUR FATHER.
ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOUR FATHER IS GOING TO RAPE YOU?
PLEASE DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.
LILLY, BE A GOOD GIRL AND COME OUTSIDE!
I SAW THE LIGHT GO ON!
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
I. I KNOW
HE USED TO T-TOUCH ME!
SOB
I CAN KILL HIM FOR YOU.


LET'S GET HER, BOYS!
PANT PANT
PANT PANT

I CAN STILL REMEMBER GIVING YOU A BATH.
YOU DON'T REALIZE HOW PAINFUL IT IS TO SEE SUCH BEAUTY
YOU'RE ALL CRAZY!
NO! STOP!
MAYBE, SWEET HEART; BUT YOU MAKE US THAT WAY!

VSSH
!!
WKRAK
SSSHOOM


REVERSE
MODE

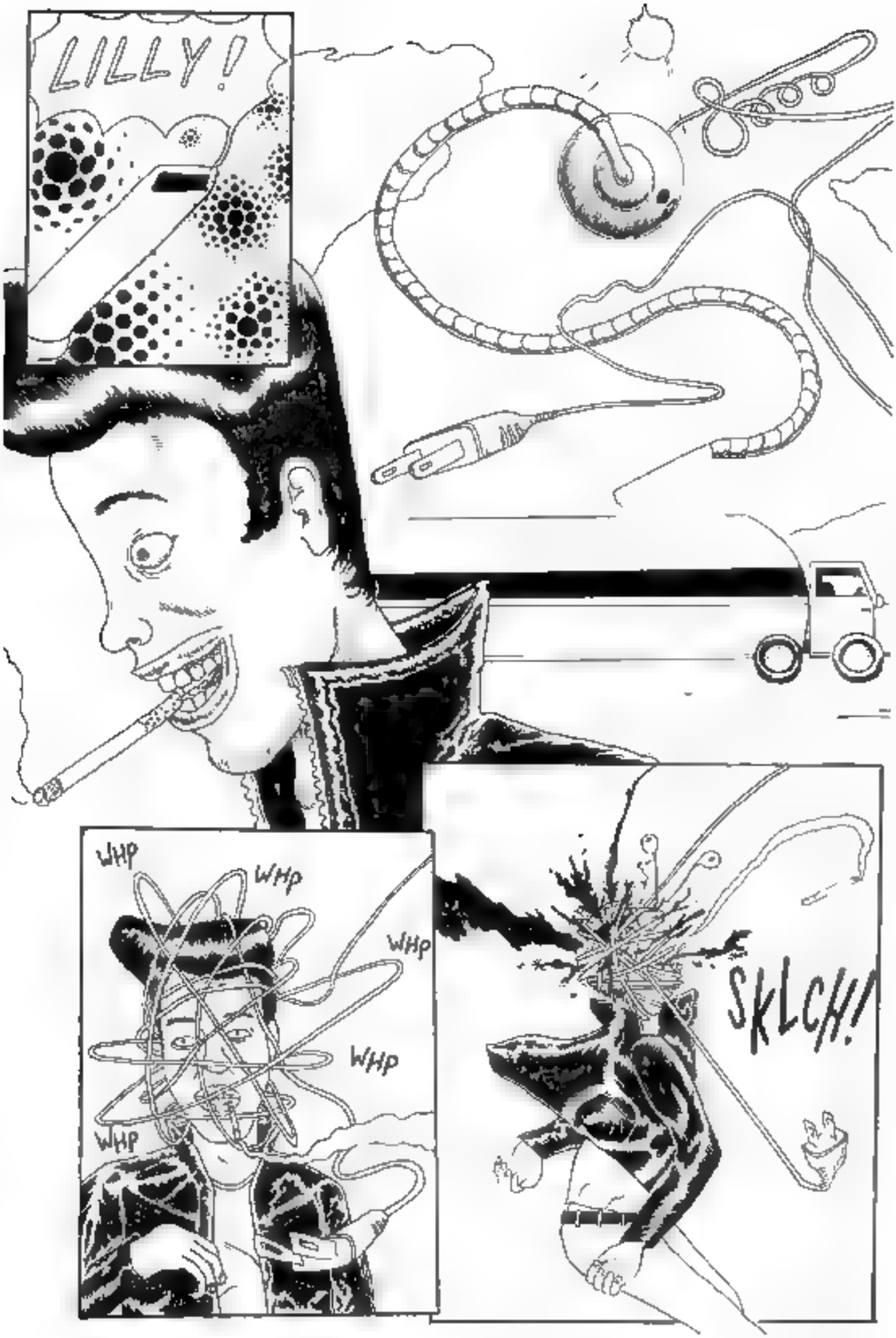
TO THE WINDOW!
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DRIVE?
SORTA!

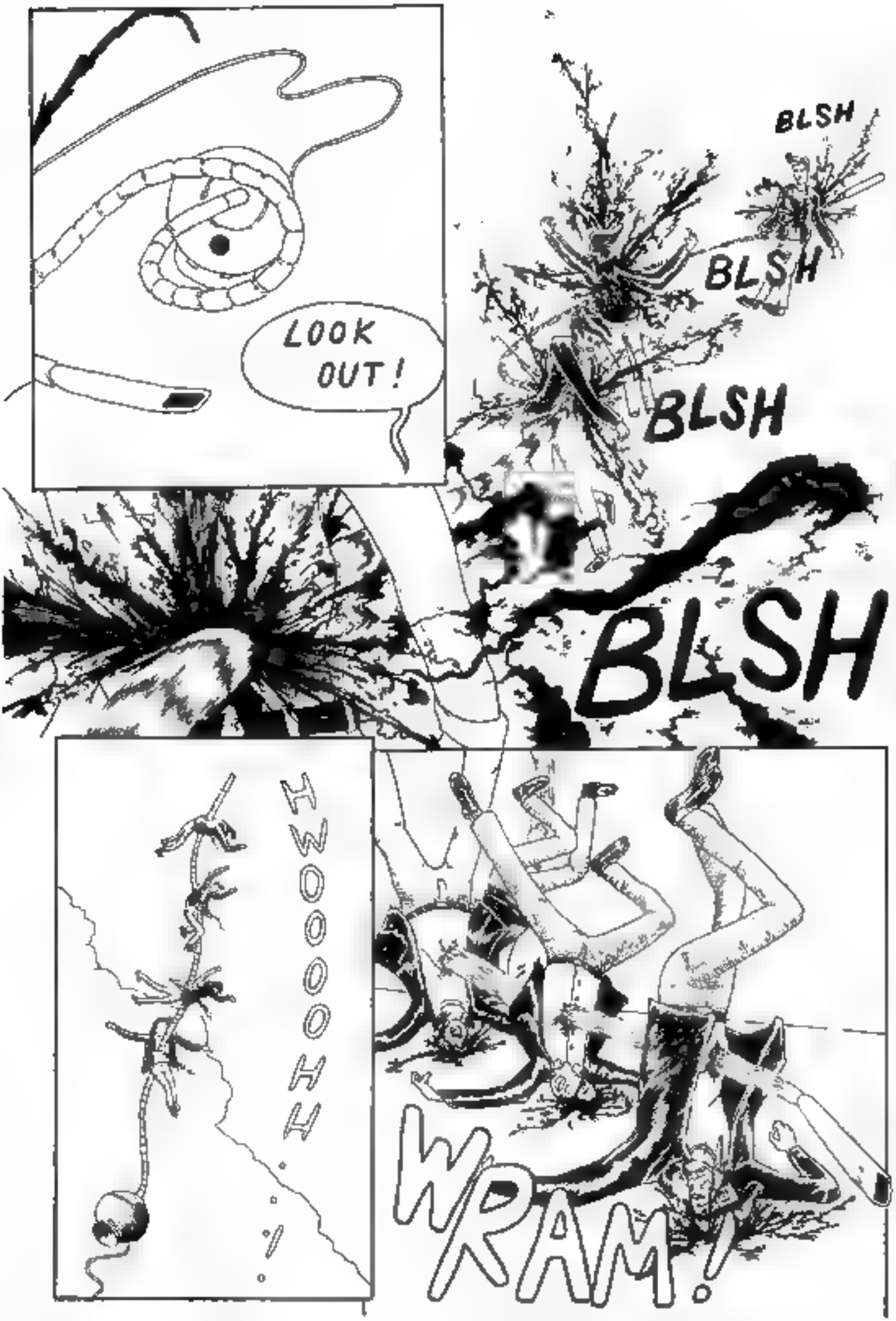
I CAN JIMMY THE IGNITION WITH MY TAIL
KCHK
WOW! YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!
VROOMMM
LET'S BLOW THIS JOINT!

WHERE AM I GOING?
ARIZONA.
ARIZONA?
IT'S THE SITE FOR A GATHERING.
--OF EVERY VACUUM ON EARTH.
OH?
WE NEED GAS.
PULL OVER BY THIS FUEL TRUCK.
KTUNK
GULK
GULK
GULK
I DON'T HAVE TASTE BUDS
HOW DOES THAT TASTE?
WOOOSH
BLORK

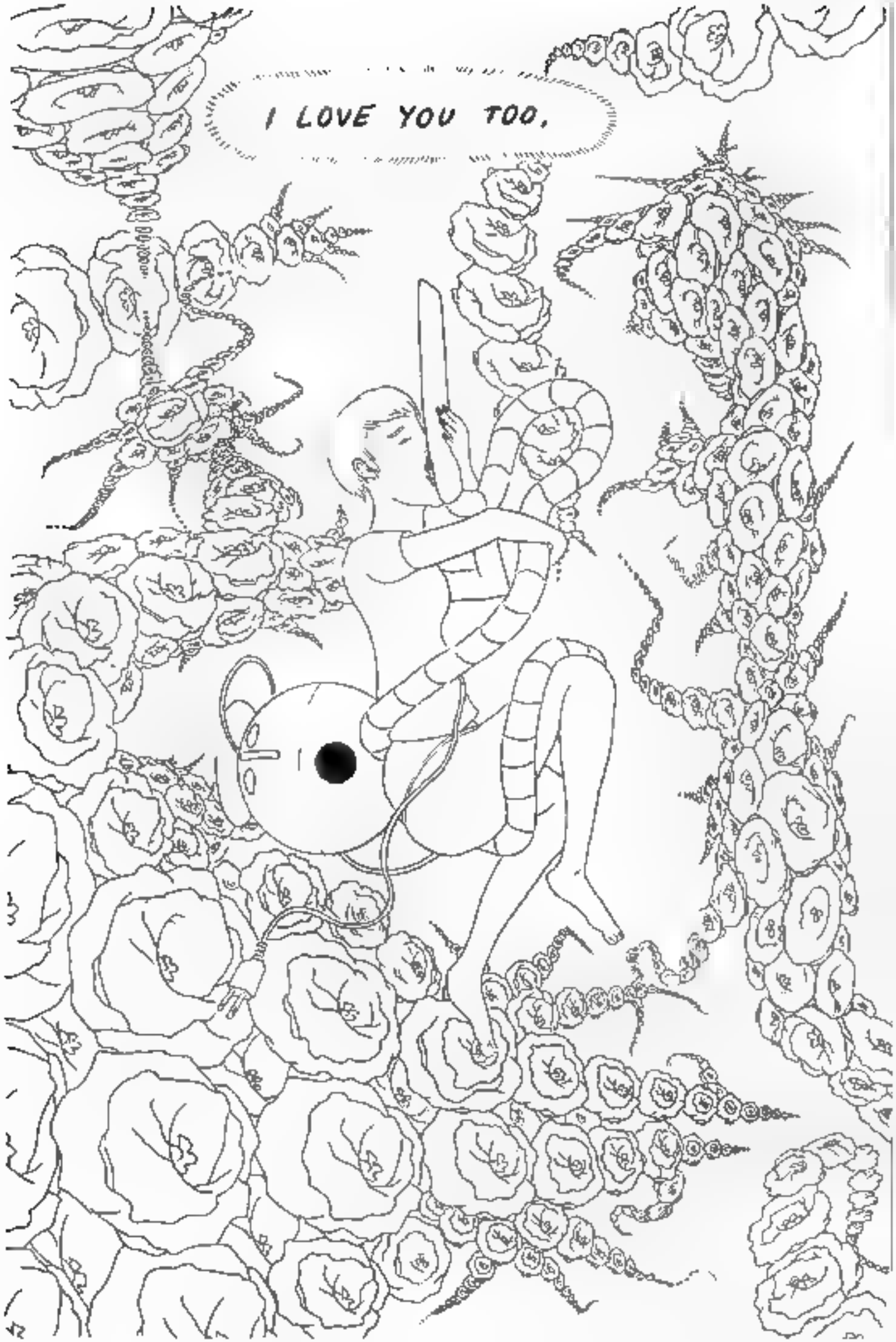
I SEE SOME CARS COMING TOWARDS US!
RRRRRRR
THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM.
HEY DERE HONEY!
VMMM
IT AIN'T SAFE!
WHY 'RE YOU OUT HERE ALL ALONE?

YEAH! HOW BOUT YOU RIDE WITH ME? I'LL PROTECT YA!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW MY HIPS WORK!
HONK ♪ ♪ HONK
SNKT
GET OUT OF THE CAR
MAKE ME, FAGGOT!
"FAGGOT" SHE SAYS! SHE CALLED ME A FAGGOT!
HA HA HA
VSHH
THUNK

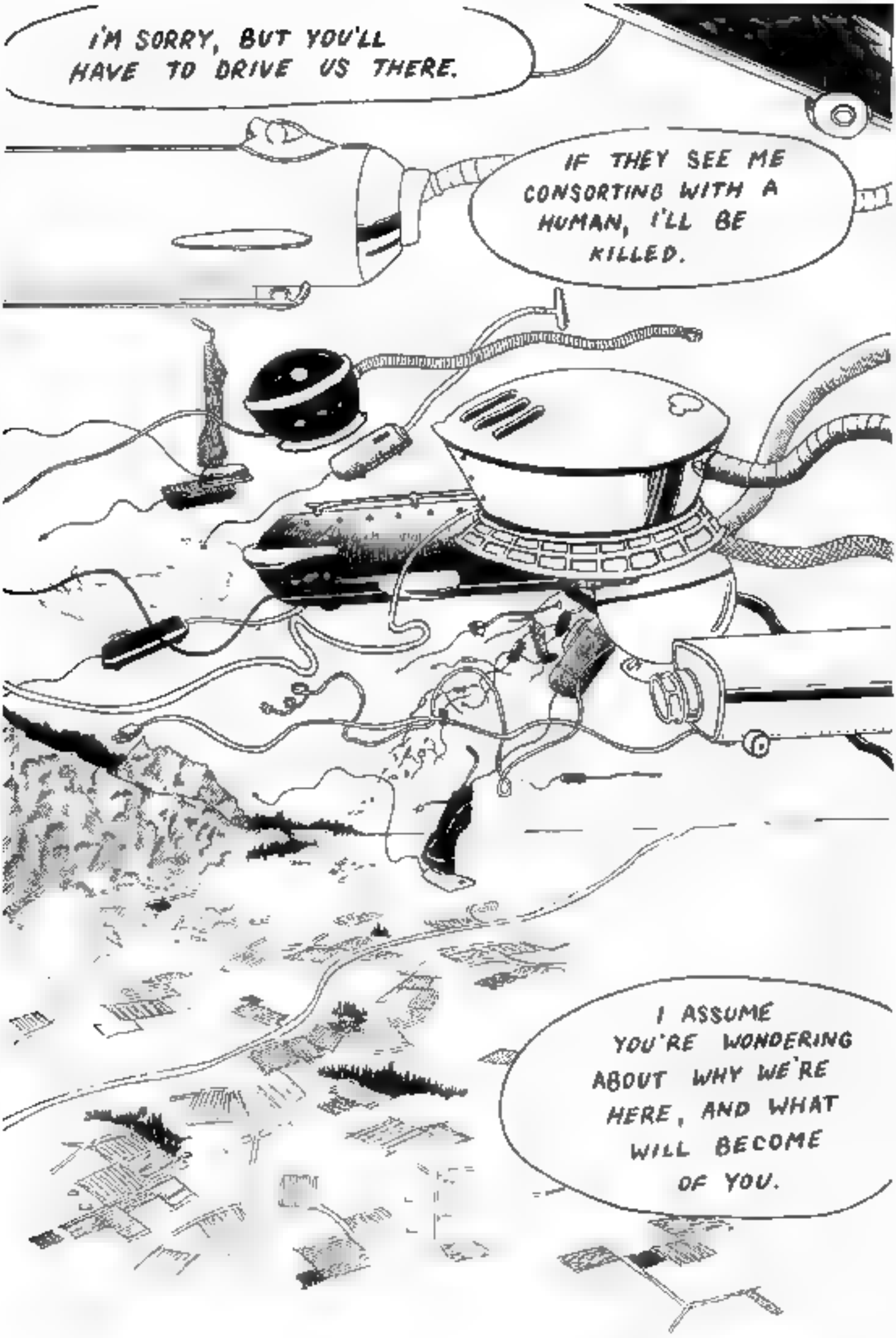

LILLY!
WHP
WHP
WHP
WHP
WHP
SKLCH!


LOOK OUT!
BLSH
BLSH
BLSH
BLSH
WOOOOHH
WRAM!

AGAIN YOU'VE SAVED ME
WHY GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE?
BECAUSE I'VE TRAVELLED THE UNIVERSE, AND I'VE NEVER MET A BEING SO PURE
I LOVE YOU

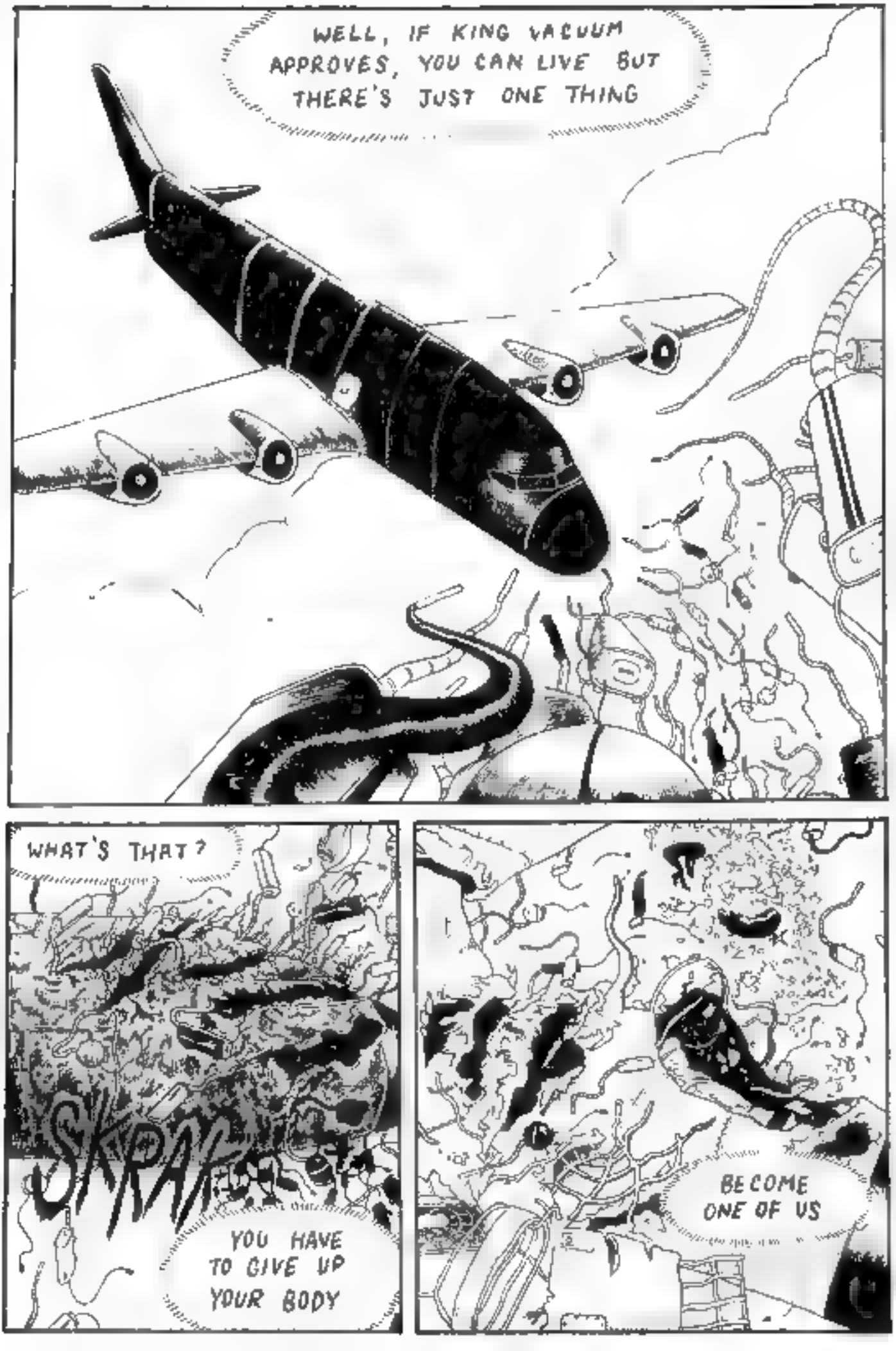

I LOVE YOU TOO.

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE SKY
THE OTHER VACUUMS.
THEY'RE ALL HEADED TO THE GREAT GATHERING
TO MEET KING VACUUM AS HE DESCENDS FROM SPACE


I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DRIVE US THERE.
IF THEY SEE ME CONSORTING WITH A HUMAN, I'LL BE KILLED.
I ASSUME YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT WHY WE'RE HERE, AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU.

VACUUMS ARE AN ALIEN RACE, AS YOU KNOW.
AND OUR MISSION HERE ON EARTH IS TO EXTERMINATE HUMANITY
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
YET, IT IS JUSTIFIED. LET ME EXPLAIN SOME CRUCIAL HISTORY TO YOU
THE UNIVERSE IS FAR MORE REPETITIVE THAN IT SEEMS ACROSS THE COSMOS, COUNTLESS "EARTHS" EXIST
HUMANS, BY DEFAULT, ALWAYS RISE TO THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN, INDUSTRIALIZE, DEVELOP SPACE CRAFT, COLONIZE NEIGHBORING WORLDS, ETCETERA.
THEN, INTERSTELLAR WAR
INEVITABLY, ANTI MATTER BOMBS ARE DETONATED..
DESTROYING THE WHOLE GROUP OF HUMANS, AND ALL THE PLANETS THEY CONTROL
THE CYCLE NEVER VARIES!

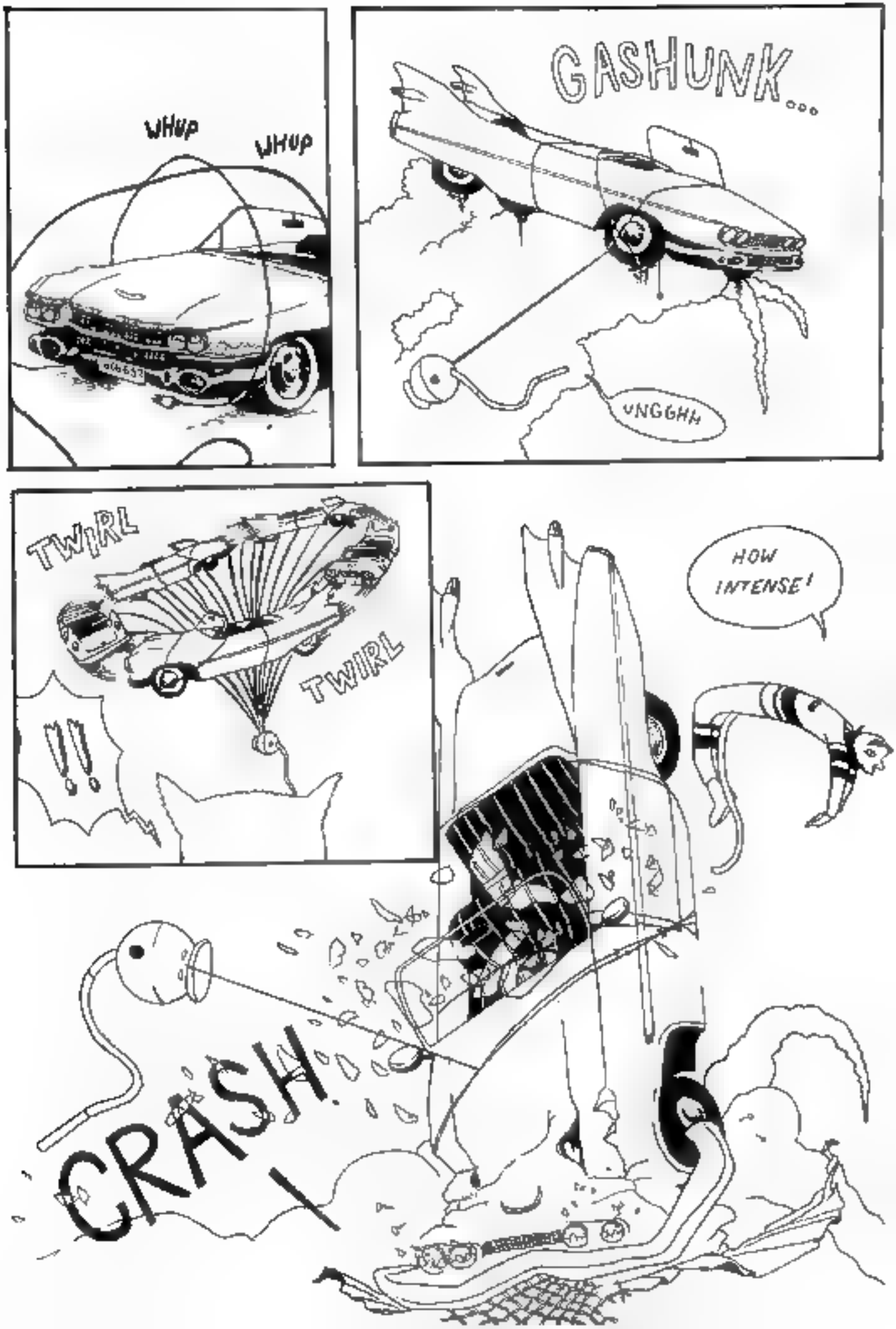
SO IN ORDER TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE, HUMANS MUST BE DESTROYED.
CORRECT.
THEY ARE DEADLY PESTS THAT EXPLODE
THEY'VE VAPORIZED THOUSANDS OF PLANETS, SO WE MUST RESORT TO THIS--
RACIAL CLEANSING ON A COSMIC SCALE.
STEP ONE IS TO INFILTRATE HUMAN HOUSEHOLDS UNDER THE DISGUISE OF "CLEANING DEVICES."
SECOND, THE HYPNOTIZING OF WORLD LEADERS, AND THE SUDDEN ABOLISHMENT OF LAW, TO CREATE DISORDER.
THIRD, THE NEUTRALIZATION OF HUMAN MILITARY...
WHICH IS HAPPENING AS I SPEAK.
SO. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?

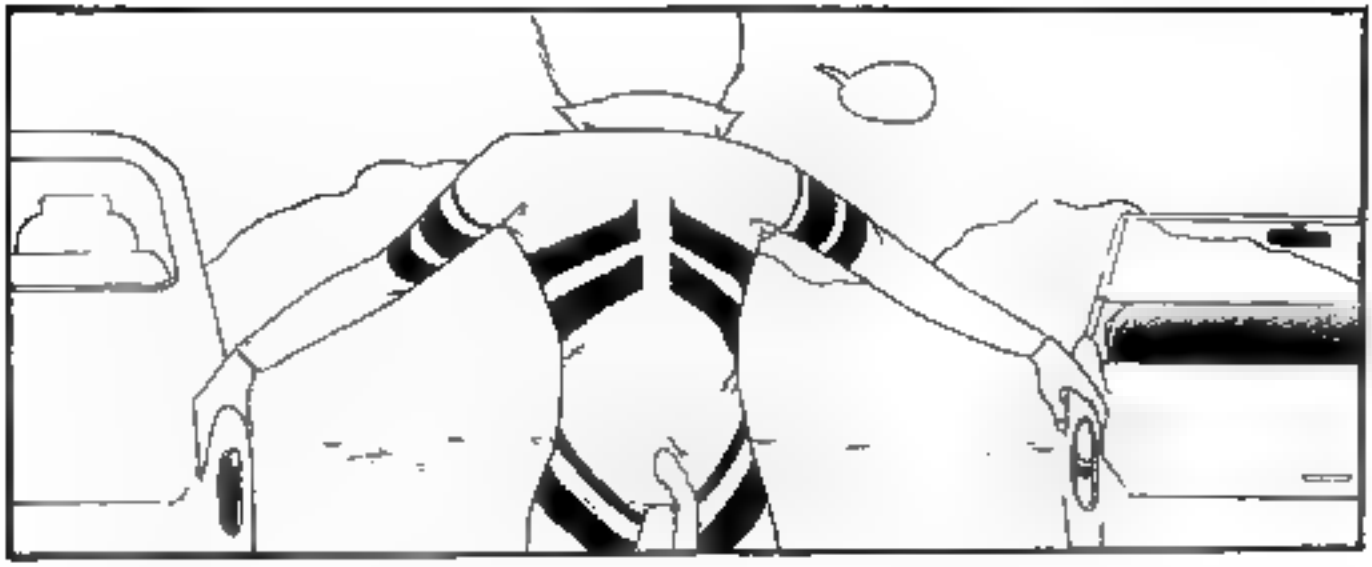

WELL, IF KING VACUUM APPROVES, YOU CAN LIVE BUT THERE'S JUST ONE THING
WHAT'S THAT?
SKRAK
YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP YOUR BODY
BECOME ONE OF US

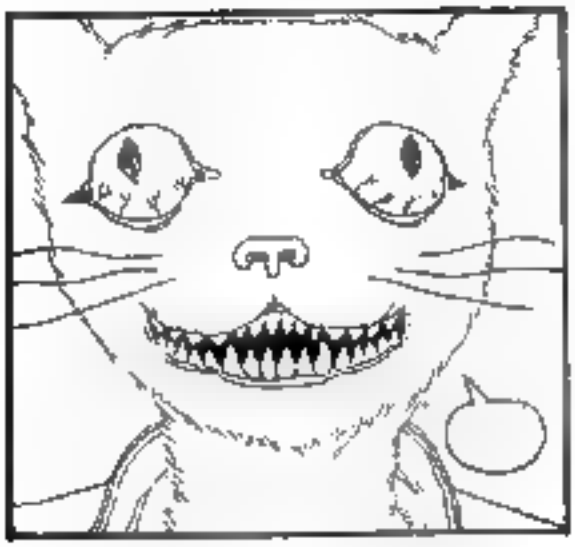
BECOME A VACUUM?
YES WE'RE AT THE GATHERING PLACE. DECIDE QUICKLY!
HOW LONG DO VACUUMS LIVE?
FOREVER
THEN I AGREE.
WE'RE JUST IN TIME..
KING VACUUM HAS ARRIVED!

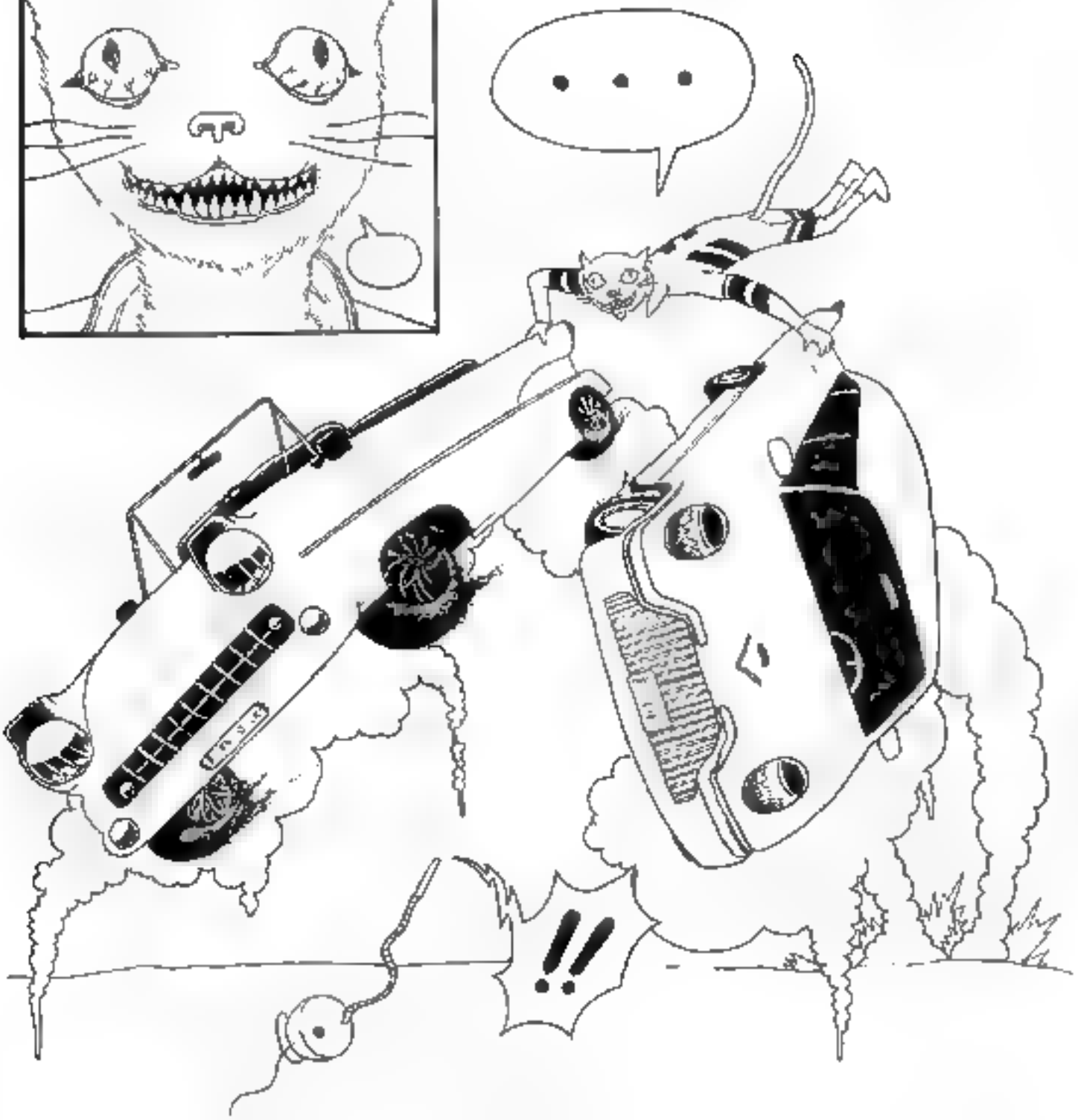
PYOOO!!!
GREETINGS COMRADES!
HOW IS THE BATTLE PROGRESSING?!
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, SIRE!
WE SOLEMNLY PRESENT...
EARTH'S WORLD LEADERS HEADS ON A STICK!

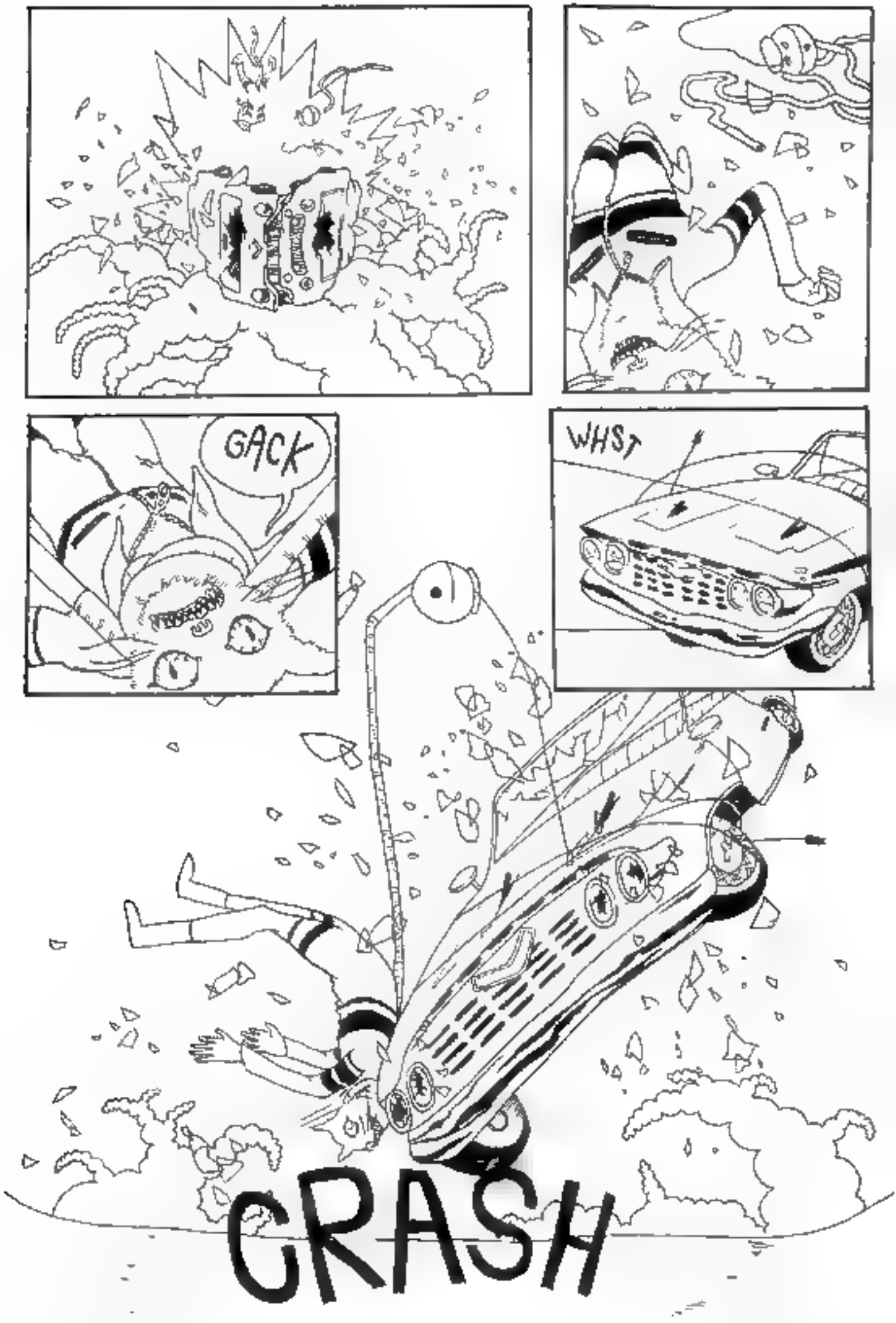
EXCELLENT!
Mreeeeep
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
KING VACUUM! I HAVE WITH ME A HUMAN FEMALE WHO IS WORTHY OF BECOMING ONE OF US!
WHAT?
IMPOSSIBLE!
CERTAINLY NOT!
YOU SPEAK BIZARRE WORDS, YOUNG ONE. THE KINGS OF PAST AGES WOULD HAVE YOU PUT TO DEATH!
I KNOW I AM ALREADY CONDEMNED. SO I'VE GOT AN OFFER FOR YOU
ALLOW US TO SETTLE THE FATE OF THIS GIRL IN A DUEL!
SUCH SPIRIT! I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
ENGARDE !!!


WHUP
WHUP
GASHUNK...
UNGGHH
TWIRL
TWIRL
!!!
HOW INTENSE!
CRASH!





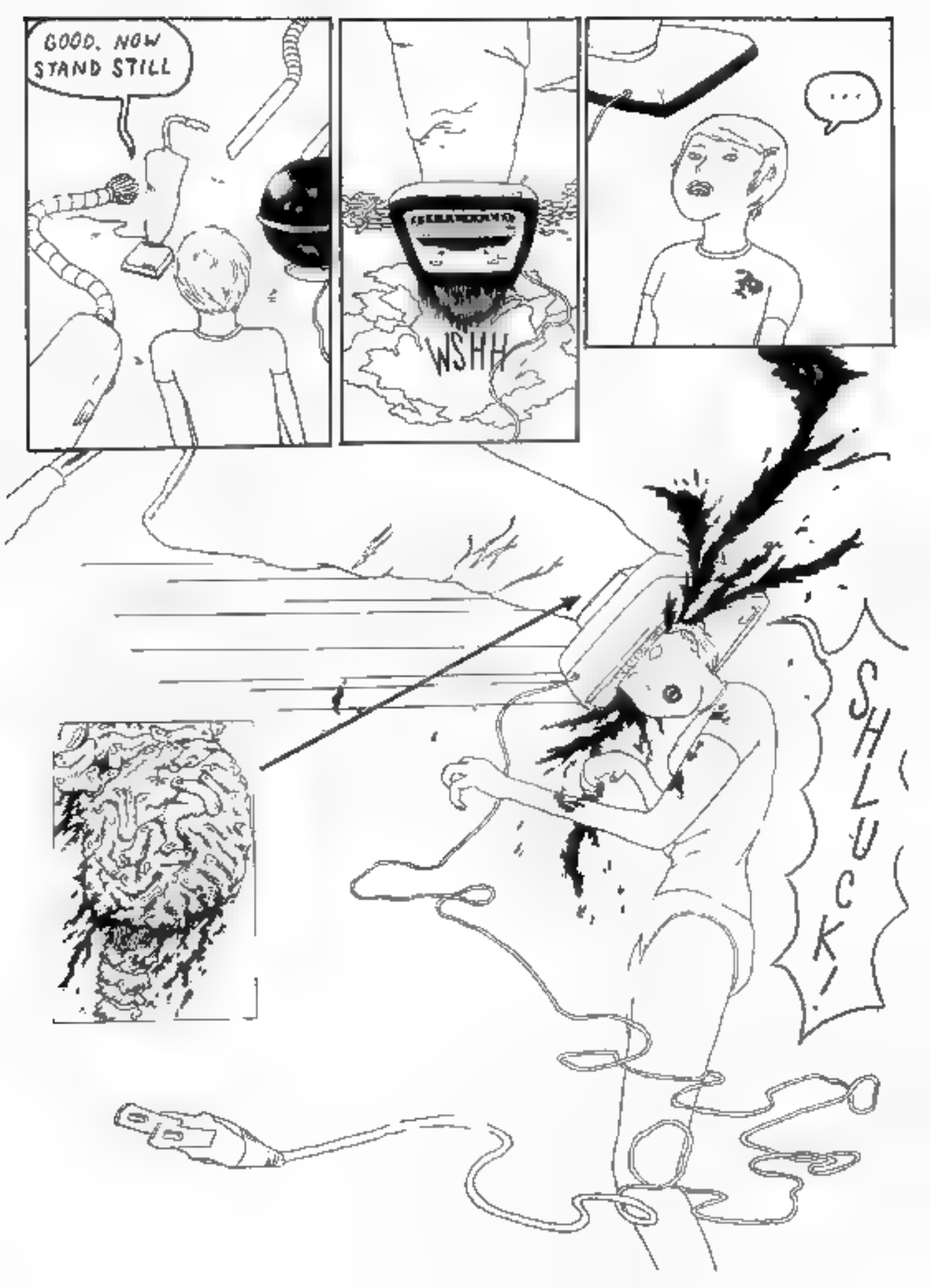


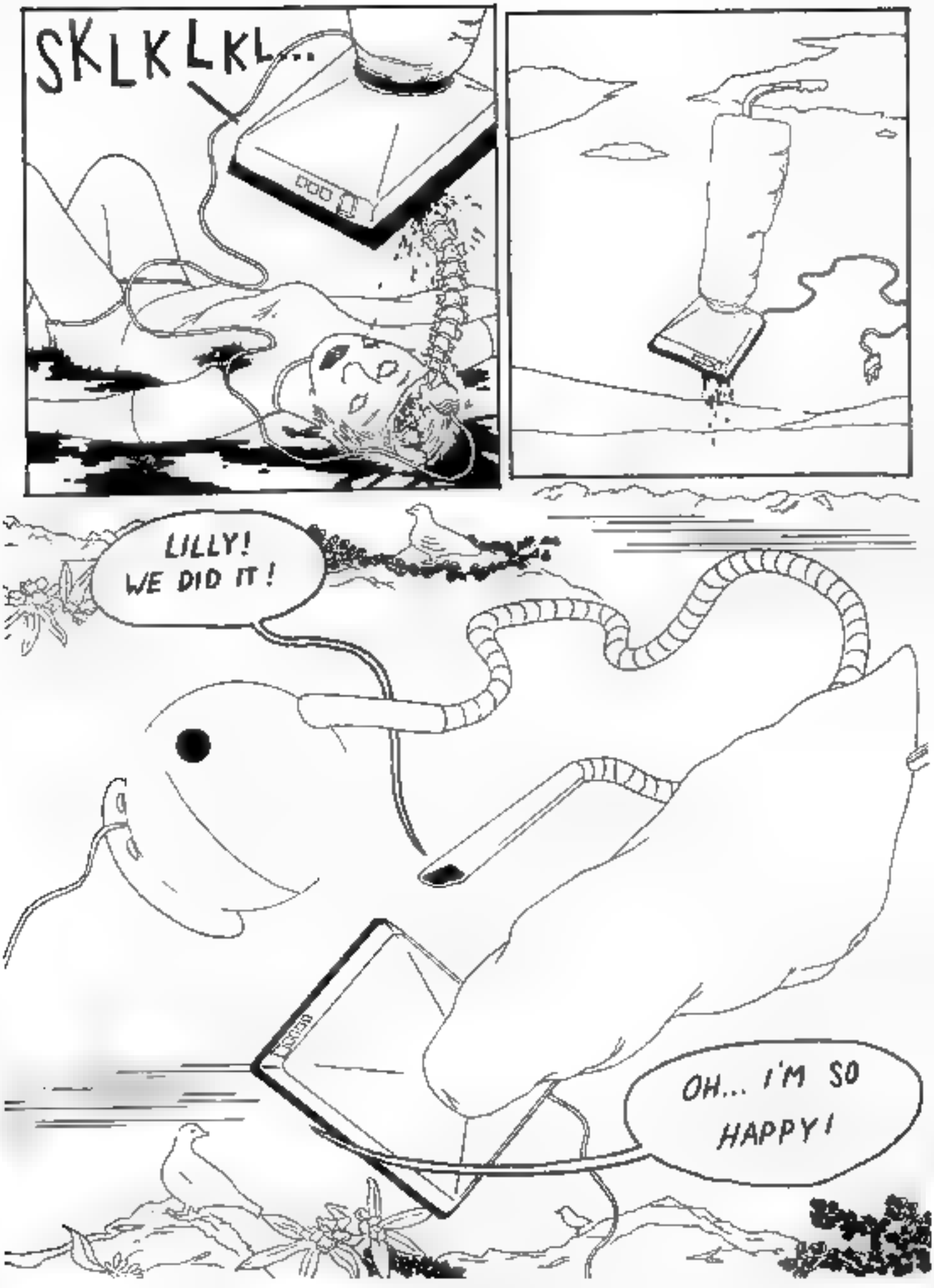

GACK
WHST
CRASH

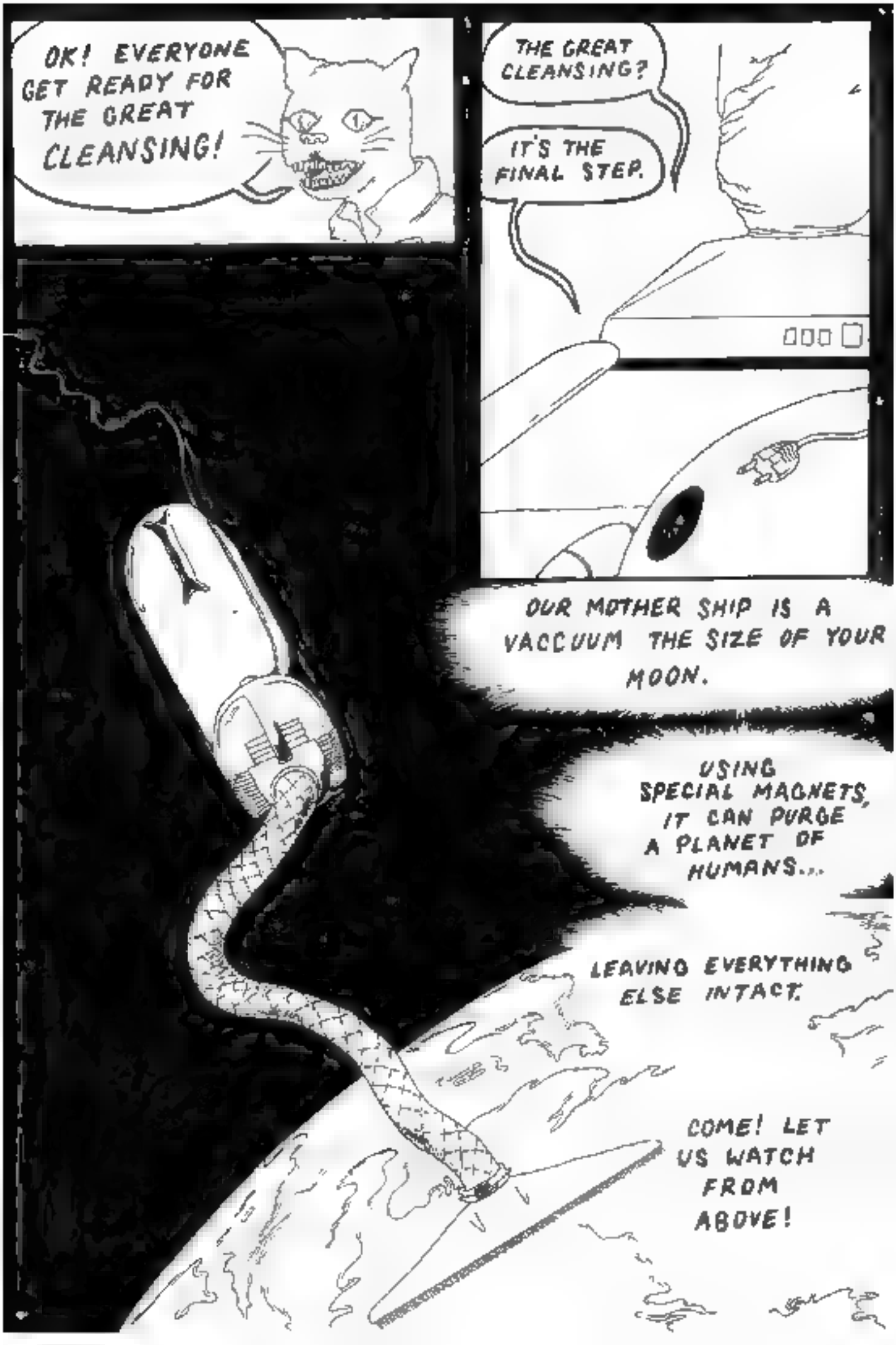
SPROING
HUP ..
WKOOM

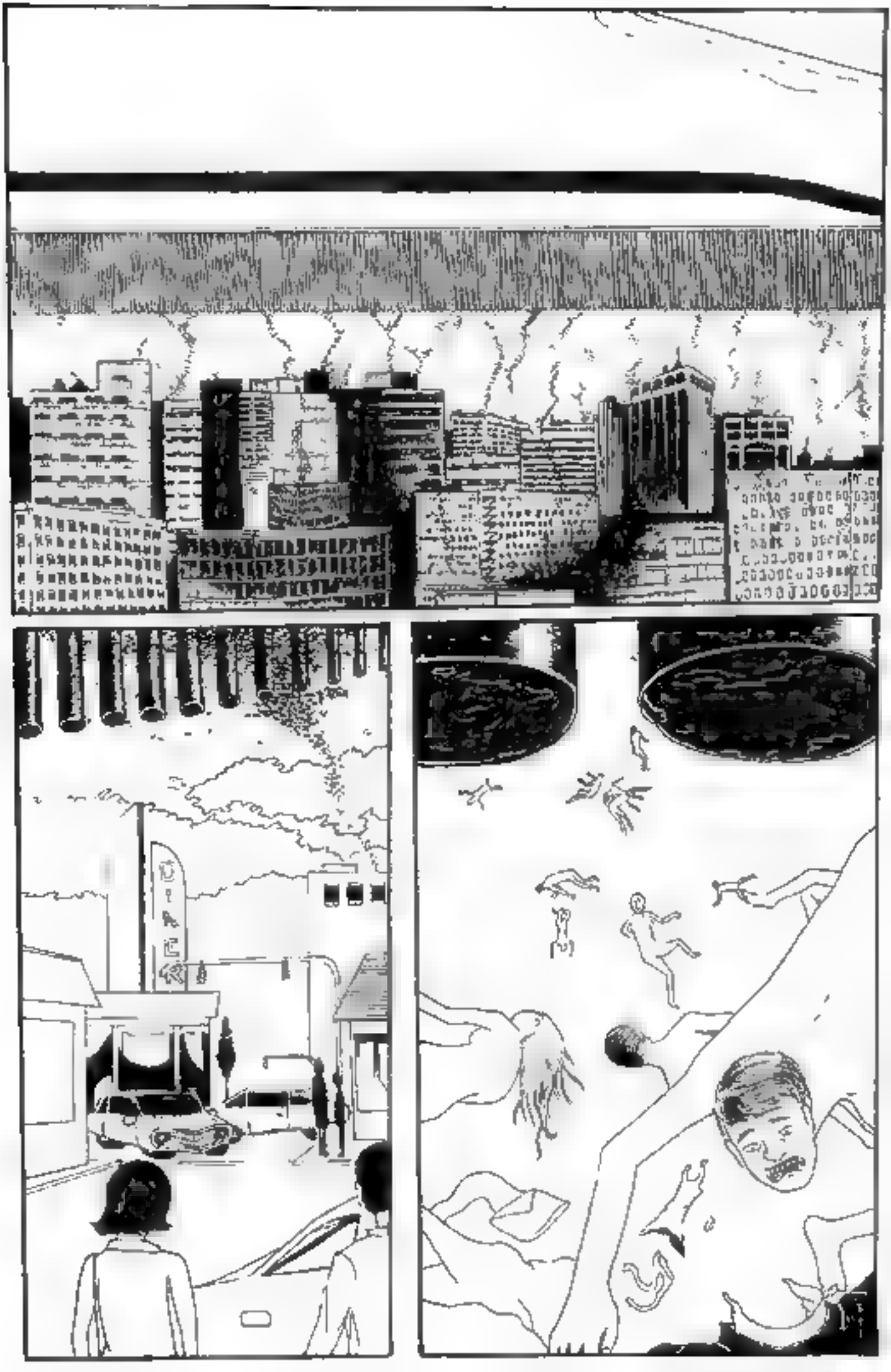
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
!!

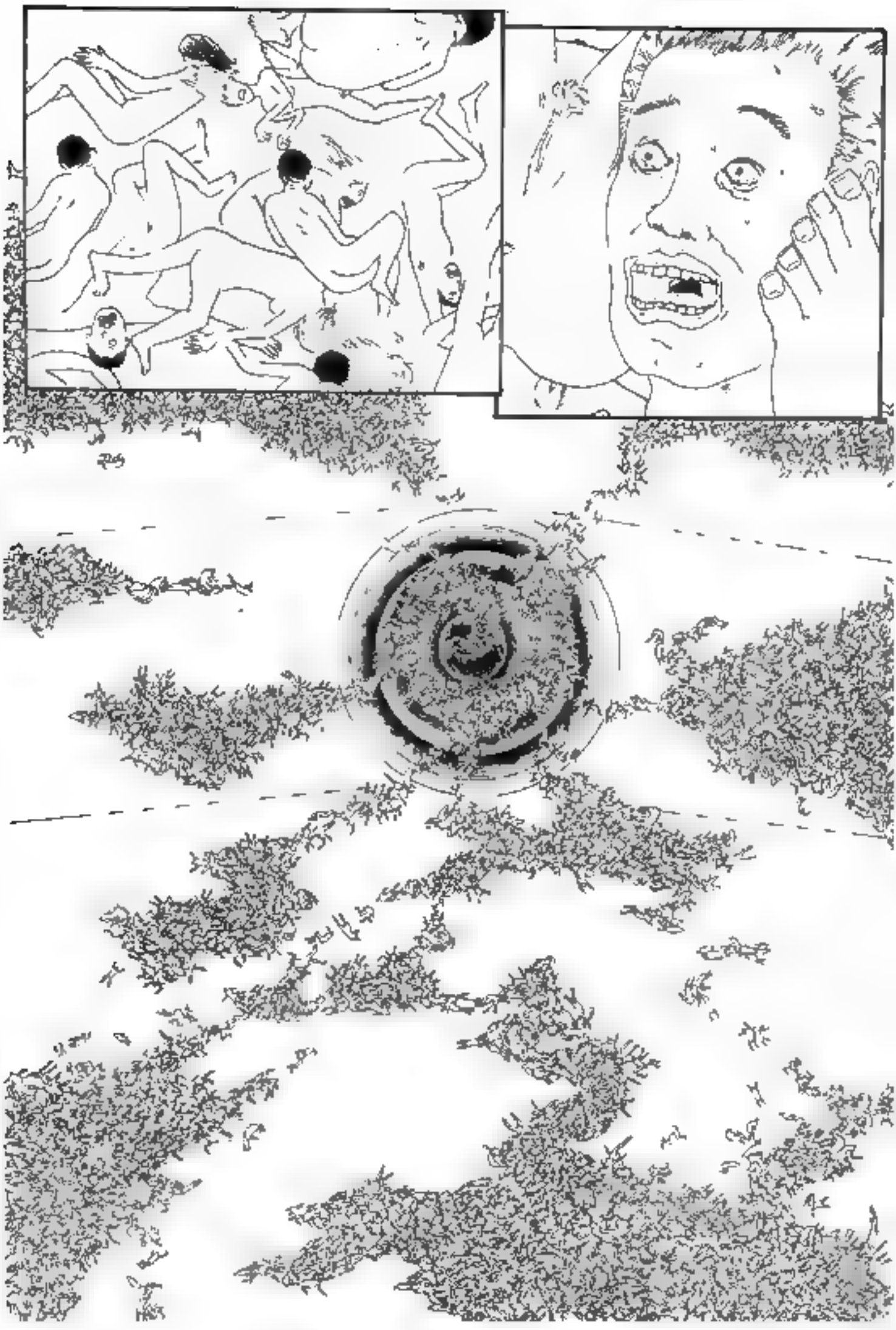
KBOOM
MARVELOUS!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO ENTERTAINED! THE GIRL CAN LIVE!
THANK YOU, SIRE..
CLAP
CLAP
YOUR NEW BODY IS READY.
COME THIS WAY

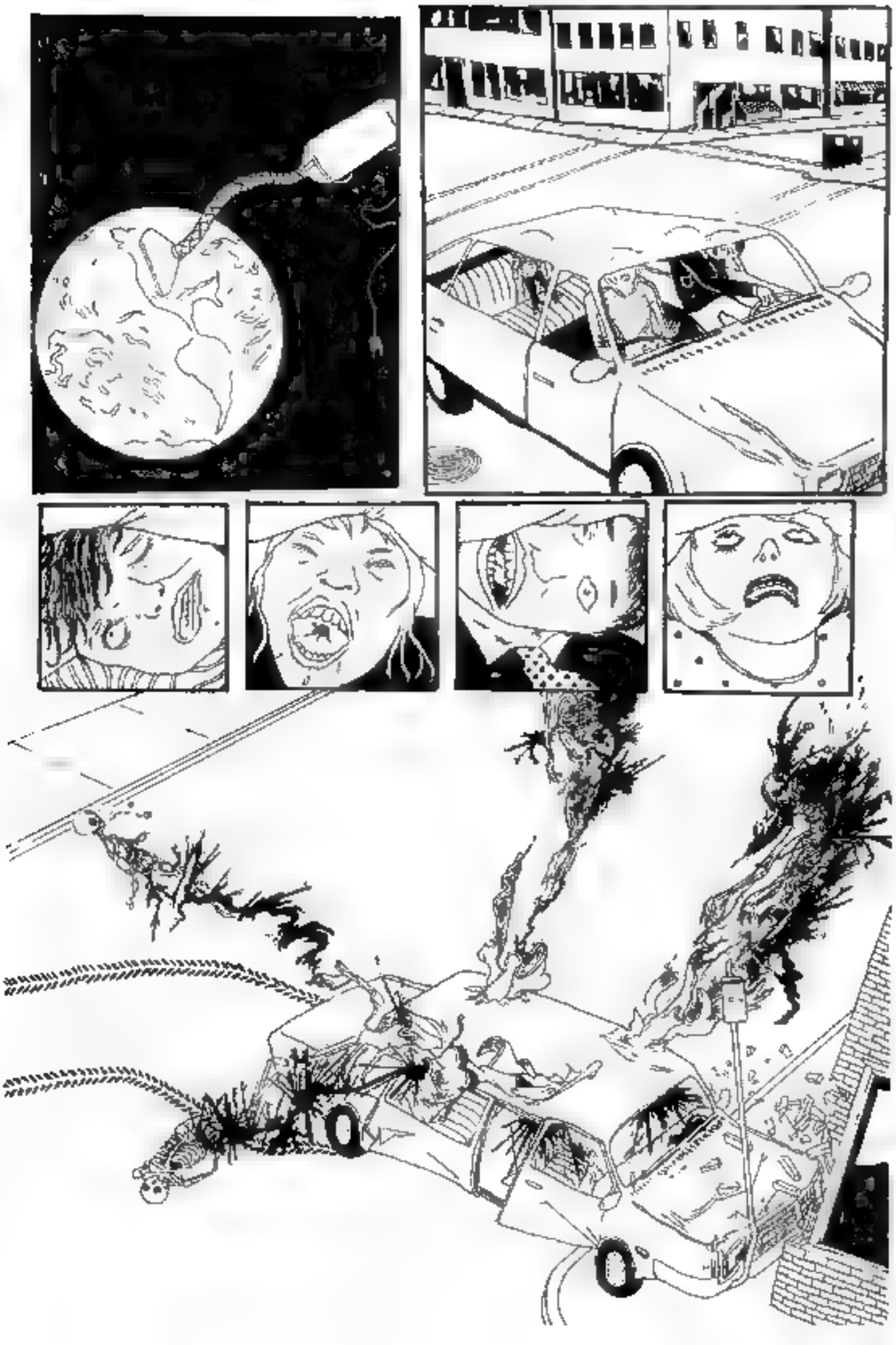

GOOD. NOW STAND STILL
WSHH
...
SHLUCK!

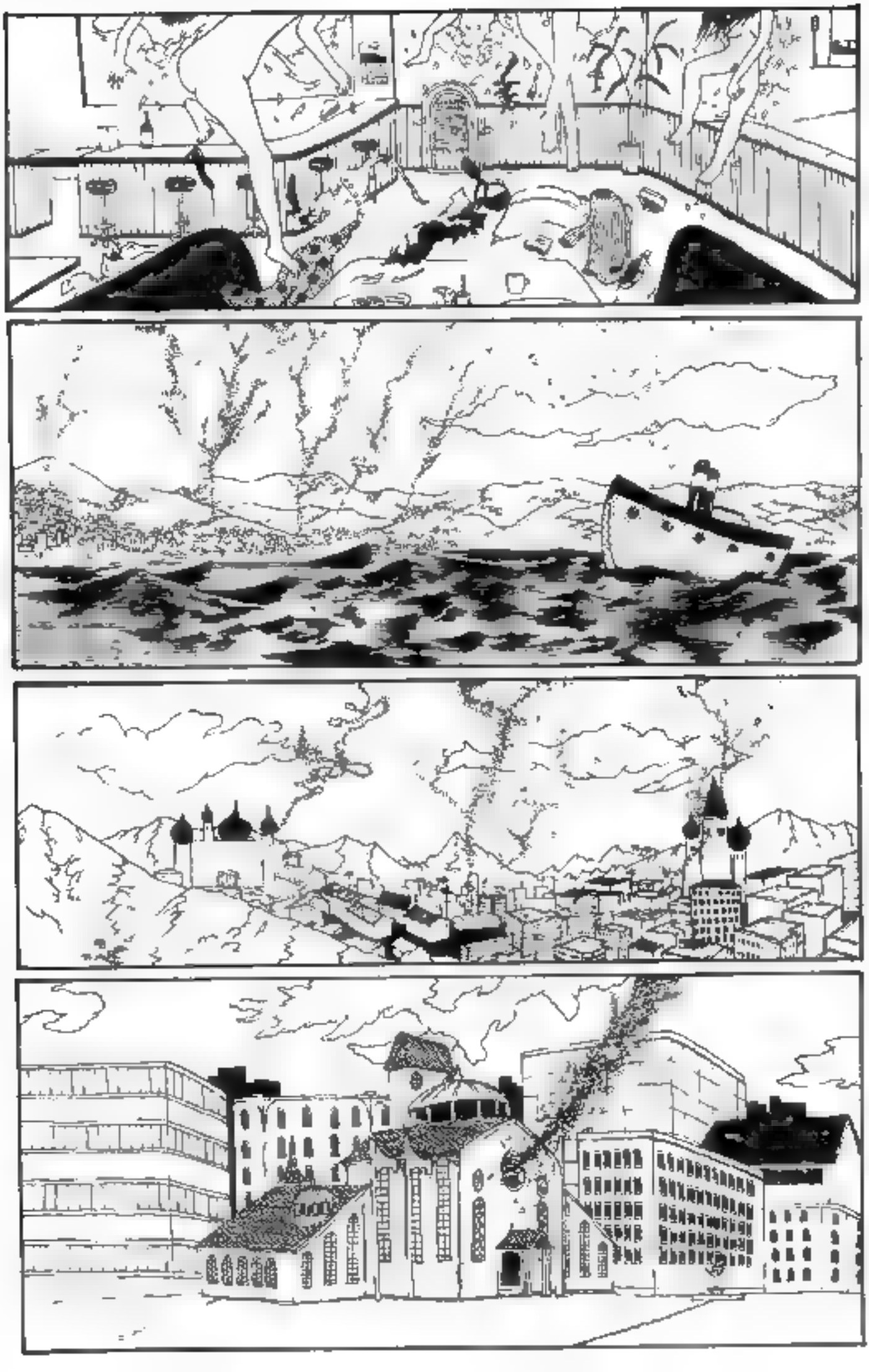

SKLKLKL...
LILLY! WE DID IT!
OH... I'M SO HAPPY!

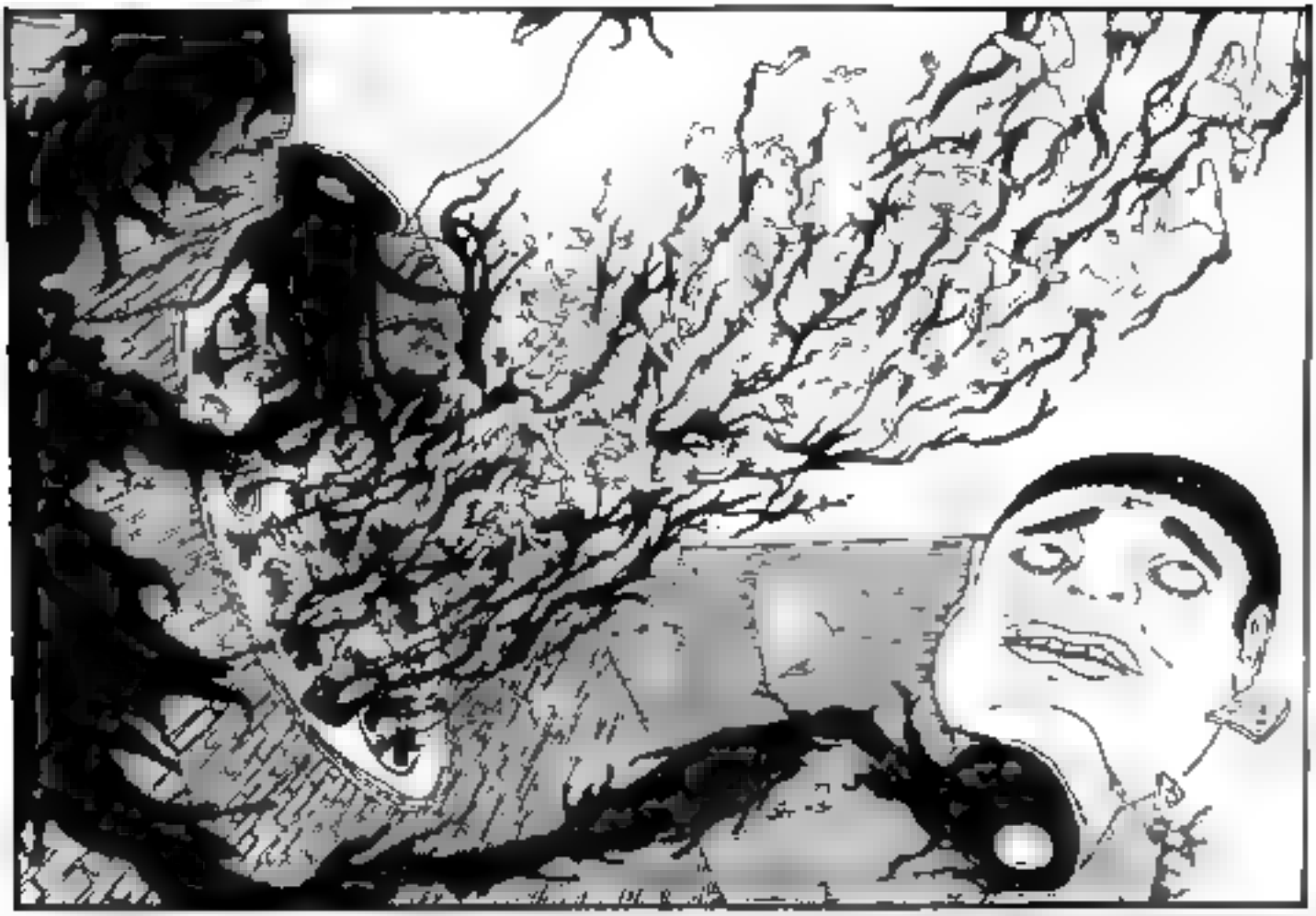

OK! EVERYONE GET READY FOR THE GREAT CLEANSING!
THE GREAT CLEANSING?
IT'S THE FINAL STEP.
OUR MOTHER SHIP IS A VACCUUM THE SIZE OF YOUR MOON.
USING SPECIAL MAGNETS, IT CAN PURGE A PLANET OF HUMANS...
LEAVING EVERYTHING ELSE INTACT.
COME! LET US WATCH FROM ABOVE!

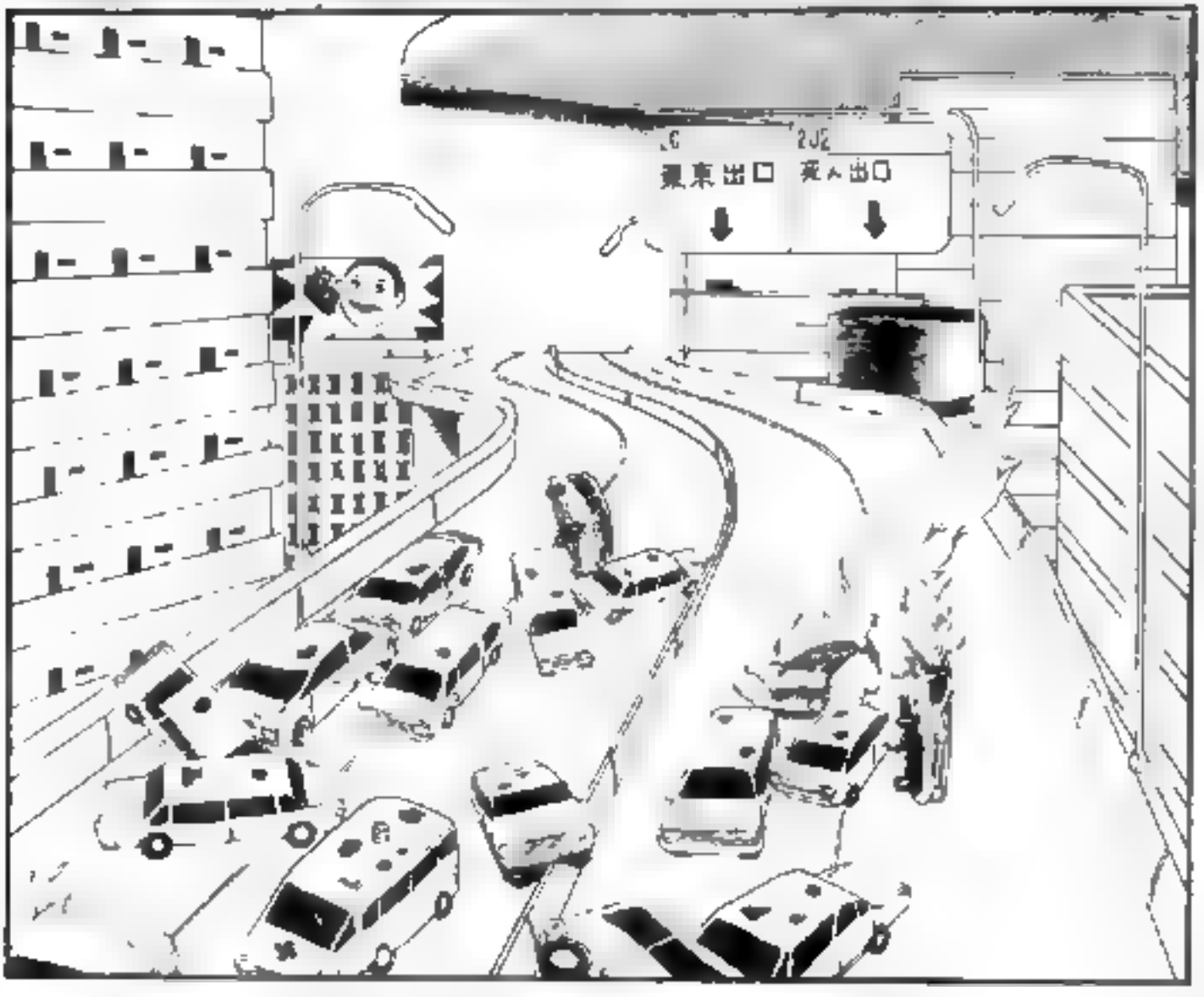











東東出口
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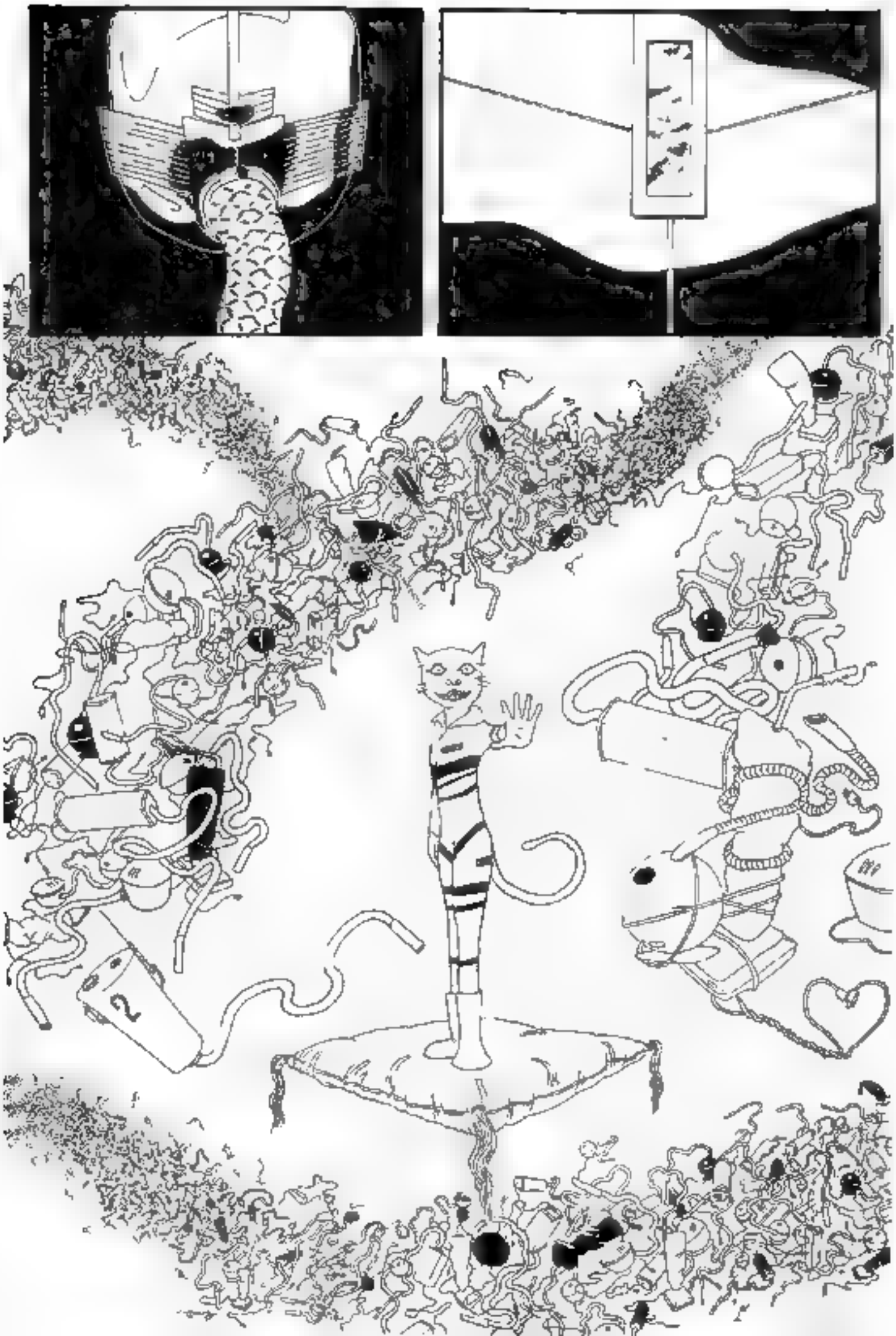

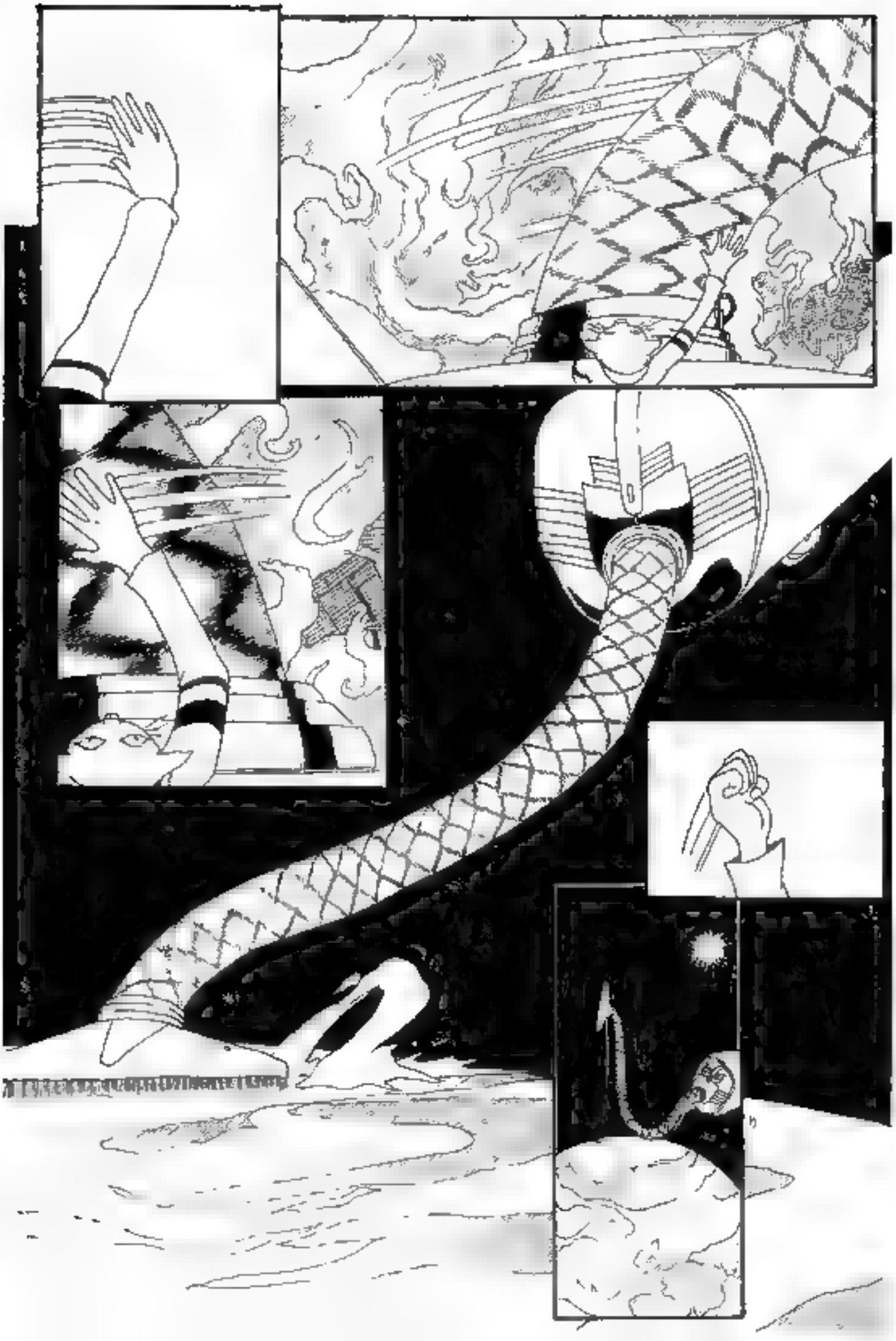

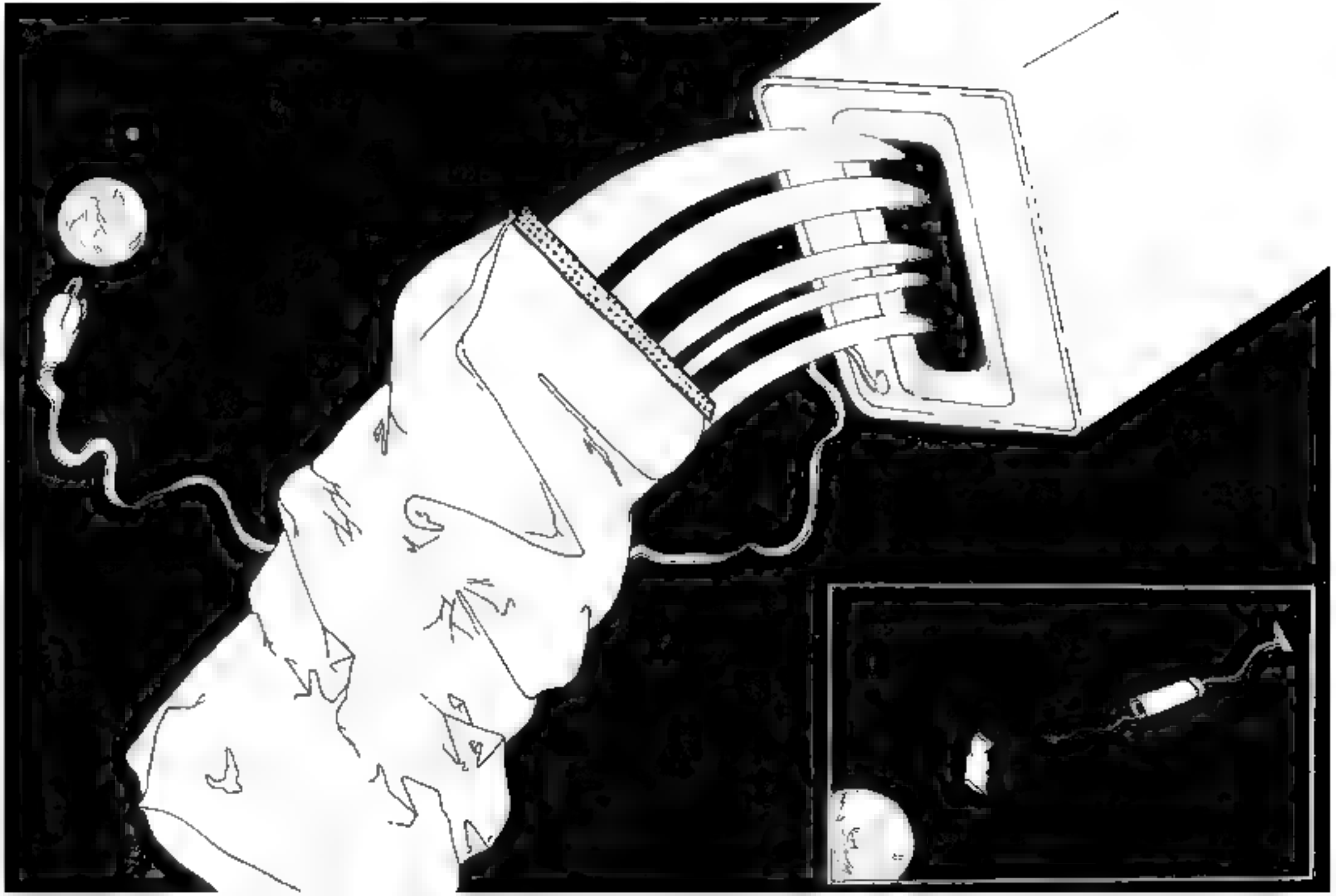

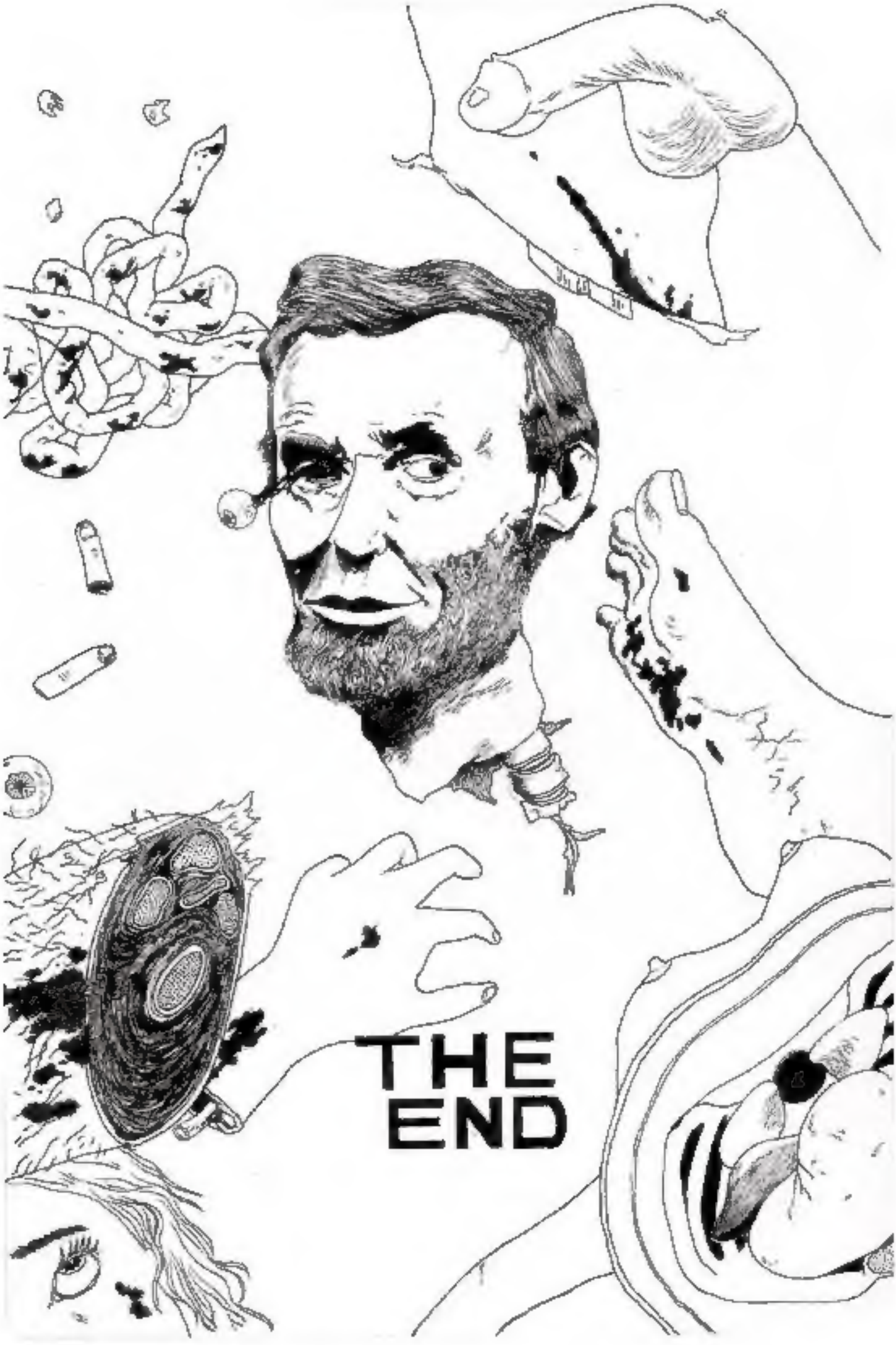
THE
END

Vacuum Horror / Aspiração Horrífica
by / por
Aaron Shunga

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